

IrishEcho

IRISH

40

UNDER

40

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40 Under 40 Award Winners Lauded



Ray O'Hanlon
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The 40 Under 40 awards were virtual this year and hosted by our colleagues in Belfast due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, they were spanning the miles in America, and the miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

This year's awards were the fourteenth annual, so the grand total of award winners over the past decade plus four years equals 560.

That total number of award winners to date makes for a lot of living, work, accomplishment, ambition, hope, and dreams. The awards celebrate all of these and more. And they are, we hope, as much a spur for the future as they are a recognition of each winner's present and past.

Our award winners have already blazed trails through their lives that bring credit to themselves, their families, their communities, Ireland, Irish America, and the United States of America.

The awards are not given on the basis of specific jobs, vocations or achievements, but rather cover all

possible career bases and pursuits and are prompted by nominators who see in each award winner a reason, or reasons, as to why he or she stands out at a time of life when a certain landmark age has yet to be reached.

The varied careers, and the different places our award winners call home, is now a familiar aspect of 40-Under-40. The awards are national and international, personal and shared. And we believe they wear the passing years well. And the Irish Echo is proud to play host in what is our 93rd year of publication.

This year's guest speaker was Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney in Massachusetts. There were opening remarks from Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Dan Mulhall. Gerry Adams spoke on the legacy of Frederick Douglass. There was music from the Dropkick Murphys + Blaggards. In addition, special awards in nine categories were presented.

Congratulations to all our 2021 40 Under 40 Award winners. You represent the very best of our Irish American community.



The 40 Under 40 guest speaker was Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney in Massachusetts.

We congratulate all our Award Winners

Ciara Archer
Conor Bagley
Kevin Byrne
Michael Collins
Róisín Commane
Erin Connolly
Seanna Conway
Marc Costello
Michelle Crowley
Mícheál Curtin
Thomas Dalton
Conor Donnan
Colm Flynn

Jennifer Flynn
Liam Garvey
Ryan Greff
Thomas Griffith
Nicole Herendeen
Keenan Lacy
Connor Lennon
Megan Lynch
Alicia MacLoughlin
Gary Mannion
Keoka McClellan
Kieran McGirl
Aileen McGuire
Michael Noonan

Michael O'Rourke
Sean Patricia
Stephen Place
Meghan Quinn
Mairead Rogan
Paul Stanton
Patrick Steffans
Brendan Sullivan
Matthew Sweeney
Michael Tobin
Melissa Ward
Maura Whelan Spiegel
Thomas Tubridy

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
KIERAN McGIRL
ON BE CHOSEN AS AN HONOREE FOR
THE IRISH ECHO'S



- KIERAN COMES FROM A FAMILY THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OVER THE DECADES. THE IRISH ECHO AND THE O'HAGAN- McGIRL FAMILY HAVE GUIDED OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES WITH A TENACITY THAT CELEBRATES OUR CULTURE AND ACHIEVEMENTS, DESPITE THE BARRIERS.
- AL O'HAGAN GAVE NEW YORK CITY THE GREAT IRISH FAIR, AS COUNTLESS GENERATIONS LEARN OUR LANGUAGE, SPORT, MUSIC AND THE NEVER- ENDING FIGHT FOR A UNITED IRELAND. AL HAD TO FIGHT FOR THE FAIR OVER THE DECADES AND NEVER COMPROMISED THE RIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLE TO BE FREE.
- IT WAS MOST FITTING THAT IN THIS PAST YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC, AL'S GRANDSON KIERAN CAME TO THE RESCUE OF THE GREAT IRISH FAIR WITH HIS SKILLS IN MEDIA PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA EVENT STREAMING. THE GREAT IRISH FAIR IS NOW IN POSITION TO GROW TO OUR DIASPORA COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE, SHARING OUR MUSIC, SPORT AND LANGUAGE AND THE DEDICATION TO A UNITED IRELAND.
- IRISH-AMERICA IS IN GOOD HANDS WITH THE YOUNG LEADERS SUCH AS KIERAN McGIRL.

COMHGHAIRDEAS, KIERAN

Gerard L. Keogh, Esq.

Attorney at Law Keogh Law Group,

PLLC 200 Park Avenue, Suite 1700 New York, NY 10166



Erin Connolly

Where you live:

Hartford, Connecticut

Place of Birth:

Syosset, New York

Age:

38

Family: I met my husband, Billy Sutton, in 2008 when we were television news reporters at WCTI (ABC/FOX) in New Bern, North Carolina. We got married in 2012 and now have two beautiful daughters, Ireland Elizabeth Sutton (5)

and Connolly Clare Sutton (2). I am the only child of my loving and supportive parents, Elizabeth and Neil Connolly, who live on Long Island where I grew up.

First Job: Inside Edition with Deborah Norville

What it taught me: Inside Edition with Deborah Norville was a crash course in the broadcast industry. Immediately after college, I was immersed in a fast-paced and competitive newsroom. I was given the opportunity to interview a number of news personalities and celebrities at red carpet events including Walter Cronkite, Elton John, John Travolta, Jon Bon Jovi, Gayle King and Billy Joel. Inside Edition challenged and tested me, but it also reinforced my love of journalism and my desire to pursue my dreams of becoming an on-air anchor and reporter.

Current Company and position: I am currently an evening anchor at WFSB (CBS), Connecticut's most watched television station. I can be seen weekdays anchoring Eyewitness News at 4, 5, 6 and 11 p.m. During my time at WFSB, I have had the opportunity to cover Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta, Georgia, the 2016 Presidential Debate at Hofstra University in New York and the Traveler's Championship in Cromwell, Connecticut. As a

member of the station's investigative unit, I helped spearhead the series, Fugitive Files, which highlighted local cold cases. The stories resulted in multiple arrests and brought justice to a number of families. One of my proudest professional accomplishments came in 2017 when I was able to share the story of a local man in desperate need of a liver. One of our viewers saw the piece on WFSB and made the selfless decision to donate her organ and save the man's life. I was able to reunite the pair following surgery and they are now friends for life.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: You are going to make mistakes. Own up to them and learn from them. Remember people's names. Network, network, network.

Try not to be too sensitive, but never lose your empathy for others.

Figure out a way to get paid to do what you love.

Listen more. Talk less.

Do what is right, not what is easy.

Use adversity as an opportunity.

Be humble, be kind, and treat everyone with respect.

Advocate for yourself because there is no one who is going to help you more than YOU!

Say "yes" to as much as you can, but remember "no" is a complete sentence.

Enjoy your journey and remember to use all of your vacation days.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Being Irish is a big part of who I am. Both of my parents are Irish, and we have visited Ireland three times in the last 10 years. I am always blown away by the beauty of the landscape and the friendliness of the people. In Ireland's oldest pub, Brazen Head in Dublin, I decided that I would name my first daughter, Ireland. I also chose to honor my maiden name by naming my youngest daughter, Connolly. I have a strong interest in the history of Ireland and its culture and was able to be a four-time co-host of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Albany, New York.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. I am a former New York State free throw champion.
2. I studied Japanese and French in high school.
3. I can be an introvert at times and enjoy my quiet time.



Conor Donnan

Where you live:

Pikesville

Place of Birth:

Belfast, Ireland

Age:

29

Family: My family is my inspiration. My mother, Patricia Donnan, raised two children on the Falls Road in Belfast. Daniel Donnan, my younger brother, is a teacher in England and my best friend. My wife, Lia Penn, is an internal medicine doctor in Baltimore, Maryland. Lastly, my family would not be complete without our dogs, Wolfe and Spot.

First Job: Bartender

What it taught me: I worked as a bartender/bar-back in a club in Belfast during my last year of high school. The position taught me to be patient and respect people working in the service industry. In this position, I realized the value of building a strong team of people because the bar crew supported each other through difficult nights. Lastly, the job taught me the importance of actively speaking and listening to people from different backgrounds. 2 AM conversations with a group of drunk people prepare you for any leadership role.

Current Company and position: Doctoral Candidate in History at the University of Pennsylvania; Vice Chair of Someone To Tell It To; Board Member of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum; Board Member of Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center; Founder of the Commoner News.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The best advice that I can give anyone starting out is to be yourself and remember your roots. People tend to respect honesty, and they are willing to help you grow in your role. You should approach life with a learning mindset and actively

listen to employers and employees. The world is a better place if we show compassion to the people around us. Lastly, you should always bet on yourself because you are the only person that truly knows your potential.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

My identity is centered around everything I was taught as an Irishman in Belfast. My community in Clonard is a beacon for political activism, anticolonialism, and charity. I try to embrace these concepts of compassion, playful humor, and political activism in my everyday life. I am a board member of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum in Baltimore. The museum consists of a row of alley houses that Irish immigrants lived in during the 1840s. It is a great honor to work with a passionate group of Irish Americans to tell the story of working-class Irish immigrants during the nineteenth century.

As a historian, I have focused on highlighting Irish criticisms of imperialism and empowering the voiceless. I am finishing my dissertation on Irish Catholics and Native Americans in the trans-Mississippi West from 1840 to 1930. I am currently working with producers in Ireland and America to create two documentary series (one in Irish and one in English) about my research on Irish and Native American transatlantic solidarity.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. In the past year, I have met a President of Mexico, Vice President of Ecuador, and the Prime Minister of Italy.
2. I was the first person in my family to graduate college.
3. I worked as an extra in movies as a way to make money for my visa to the USA.

An Emmy-nominated journalist who has been anchoring and reporting across the country for more than a decade, Erin Connolly joined WFSB, Connecticut's most watched television station in 2014 and can be seen weekdays anchoring Eyewitness News at 4, 5, 6 and 11 p.m. An active volunteer, she has helped raise money for many Connecticut organizations and charities. Connolly was recently recognized as a 40 Under Forty Awards honoree for the Hartford Business Journal as well as Connecticut Magazine.

Prior to arriving in Connecticut, Connolly was an anchor and reporter for Time Warner Cable News in Albany, New York. Erin covered some major political stories at the New York State Capitol including several Presidential visits. Some of her favorite assignments included live-field anchoring the Travers Stakes in Saratoga Springs, the New York State Fair in Syracuse, and the men's NCAA Final Four Basketball tournament in Atlanta, Georgia. Connolly also served as an anchor and reporter for WCTI (ABC/FOX) in New Bern, North Carolina and KEYC (CBS/FOX) in Mankato, Minnesota. Her first job in the television business was at the nationally syndicated hit television show, Inside Edition. A graduate of Tufts University with a degree in political science and mass media & communications studies, Connolly was co-captain of the women's basketball and was honored on the NESCAC All-Academic Team.

She made 99 three-pointers during her four-year career with the Jumbos to rank 12th on the team's all-time list for that category. She was also the Vice President of her class, a Chi Omega sorority sister, a viewpoint columnist for the Tufts Daily, a campus tour guide, an anchor/reporter for TUTV News, and the co-host of a television dating show. Connolly studied abroad in Talloires, France. In her professional capacity, Connolly served as the MC of the Tufts Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Dinner in 2019. She was the captain of her soccer, basketball and lacrosse teams at Syosset High School and was voted Best Female Athlete of her senior class. Originally from Long Island, Connolly loves living in Connecticut with her husband and two daughters.

Conor Joseph Donnan is a doctoral student in the History Department at the University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of Professor Walter Licht. He received his B.A. in History from Ulster University in Ireland. Afterward, Conor moved to the United States, where he obtained a Master's degree in Historical Studies from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Conor's current research at Penn focuses on labor and immigration in nineteenth- and twentieth-century America. His dissertation reconstructs the interactions of Irish Catholics and Native Americans against the backdrop of American imperial expansion, industrialization, and questions of citizenship in the trans-Mississippi West from 1841 to 1924. He is currently a graduate fellow at the Perry World House and the Collegium Institute in Philadelphia. He is an active public historian and a board member of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum. In this capacity, he has developed a historical video game, appeared as a guest speaker on the U.S. National Parks Service's Heritage Area podcast, and appeared on a documentary about railroad history for LifeFM radio.

Outside of academia, Conor Donnan is a board member of four nonprofit organizations that promote educational equality, compassionate dialogue, and political activism. Conor firmly believes in Martin Luther King's philosophy that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." He worked as a peace and reconciliation volunteer for four years at Corrymeela and the Quaker Cottage. He has discussed diaspora policy with Sinn Féin, and he wrote immigration and economic policies for the Democratic Committee in Harrisburg. Recently, he has published various articles on Brexit's impact on Ireland for the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.



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IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Conor Bagley

Where you live: New York

Place of Birth: Washington, D.C.

Age: 27

Family: Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Smith Bagley, and Vaughan Bagley

First Job: Resident Assistant Director at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin on Donegal, a new musical play by Frank McGuinness, directed by Conall Morrison.

What it taught me: Working on DONEGAL taught me how new plays are made and realized on Ireland's national stage, providing insight into not only new Irish drama, but ultimately how new work is created in English-language theatre around the world. Specifically, it taught me how each playwright-director pair sets the tone for rehearsals in terms of what roles their collaborators will play, what happens inside versus outside rehearsal, and who has authority when certain questions arise, all while juggling the preferences and processes of everyone on the team. It also taught me the glorious merits and tremendous challenges of sustaining a national theatre. As it happens, I came away feeling the challenges are well worth the merits.

Current Company and position: Freelance director/producer working on a several directing projects, including a new

immersive musical piece, three new plays—a magical realist drama, a meta farce, and a psycho-sexual, naturalistic drama—as well as a co-producer on Broadway's THE INHERITANCE.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Find artistic collaborators with whom you love working, work with them again and again, and never stop meeting and working with new people.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

Some of my favorite projects have been directing Irish Drama. You could say I cut my teeth on Brian Friel and Conor McPherson. I continue to be amazed by the sheer brilliance, beauty, and diversity of Irish plays. To adapt a quote from Samuel Johnson (and give the English their due), "When you're tired of Irish theatre, you're tired of art, for there is in Irish theatre all that art can afford."

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. Many years before I fell in love with Irish culture, I fell in love with Japanese culture.
2. Throughout high school and most of college, I thought my career would be environmental policy
3. One of my top five favorite foods is dolmades (the Greek 'stuffed grape leaves')

Conor Bagley is a New-York based director and producer. Directing: Off-Broadway: TWO BY FRIEL: 50th

Anniversary production of "Lovers: Winners" and New York premiere of "The Yalta Game" by Brian Friel (Irish Repertory Theatre), SARAH SITS SHIVA FOR HERSELF (24 Hour Plays: Nationals, Manhattan Rep). Regional: THE ADULT IN THE ROOM, world premiere by Bill McMahon (Victory Gardens, Chicago); MOUNT VENUS 2018 AD (Theatre Workshop of Nantucket); AN ILIAD (Atlas Performing Arts Center, DC); SHINING CITY, DANCING AT LUGHNASA (Yale). Assistant Director: JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK, dir. Neil Pepe; THE HOME PLACE, New York premiere by Brian Friel, dir. Charlotte Moore (Irish Rep); DONEGAL, world premiere by Frank McGuinness, dir. Conall Morrison (Abbey Theatre, Dublin); OTHER DESERT CITIES, dir. Dan Foster (Nantucket). Virtual Theatre: JENNA & THE WHALE by Vanessa Garcia & Jake Cline, IT'S ALL ABOUT LORRIE by Joe Krawczyk, BORROWED by Jim Kierstead, as well as several short videos for the Adrienne Arsht Center's Miami Monologues.

Producing: Broadway: THE INHERITANCE by Matthew Lopez, winner of five 2020 Drama Desk Awards including Best Play and nominated for eleven 2020 Tony Awards, including Best Play; ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, winner of the 2018 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival.

Fellowships: SDC Observership 2017-2018; one of Manhattan Theatre Club's 2019-2020 Directing Fellows. Proud graduate of Yale College.



Connor Lennon

Where you live: Amherst NY

Place of Birth: Buffalo NY

Age: 37

Family: Jenn Lennon- Wife; Cathy and Dennis Lennon- Mom and Dad; Molly, Trevor and Scott- Brothers and sister.

First Job: Paperboy Buffalo News

What it taught me: How to work hard and be organized.

Current Company and position: Laborer for The Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Department

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Do what makes you happy

because money isn't everything.

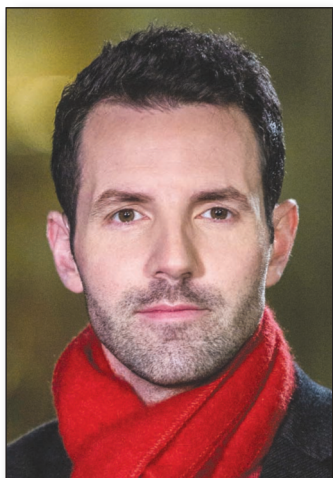
How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I march in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade every year with the Amherst Gaelic League. I also serve as an officer in that same organization.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I play darts everyday
2. I have an extensive boardgame collection
3. I grow bonsai trees

Connor was born on March 21st 1983 in Buffalo NY to Dennis and Catherine Lennon. He attended Christ the King Catholic School for K-8. He went on to study

at Saint Joseph's Collegiate Institute where he began playing lacrosse and was named captain of the lacrosse team his senior year. He then went on to attend Lemoyne College where he graduated with a Bachelors in Business with a concentration in Marketing in 2005. After graduation Connor volunteered as a JV lacrosse coach for 2 seasons. Soon after that he began working for the Town of Amherst and learned how to drive the zamboni. That's where he met his wife Jenn. Jenn and Connor married in 2020. Connor also prides himself on being a union steward at his workplace. In his free time, he enjoys darts, koi fish, bonsai, and camping.



Colm Flynn

Where you live: Rome, Italy

Place of Birth: Limerick, Ireland

Age: 32

Family: There are five in my family. My parents Tom and Noreen are both Scottish but moved to Ireland many years ago. My brother Patrick, sister Noreen-Ann, and I were all born in Ireland.

First Job: Clare FM Radio

What it taught me: It taught me that there is no substitute for hard work, and that the best way of progressing in this business is by starting from the bottom and doing your time. I started by making teas and coffees on a morning talk show and was always happy to help in any way that they needed. The more time I put in and the harder I worked, the more opportunities came my way.

Current Company and position: I work for EWTN, the global Catholic TV network, and the largest religious broadcaster in the world. I am their Rome correspondent having moved here from New York a number of months ago. I continue to produce reports and documentaries for the BBC World Service and RTE.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Start small and build up from there. Learn how to tell good stories and look all around you to find them. Start by trying to tell them in a simple way, getting a solid opening, a full middle part, and a strong end. Local radio is a great place to start. It will mean you are across everything from the research, to the production, to the broadcast. It will also give you deadlines and a sense of pride when you hear your work 'on-air'.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace the idea that people have of Ireland and the Irish all over the world, that we are a fun-loving, friendly, and kind people. I try and show people by example that these qualities are true.

My Spotify is filled with Irish bands and performers that I always have on in the background, and I try to listen to Irish radio as much as possible to keep me connected with home.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I don't like the insides of tomatoes.
2. I met Santa in the North Pole.
3. I'm a big Eurovision fan!

Colm Flynn is an award-winning Irish radio and TV presenter with a passion for telling stories. He is currently the Vatican correspondent for EWTN, the global Catholic TV network. Prior to Covid, Colm was constantly traveling the world producing reports for networks like RTE and BBC. He is a regular on Irish TV shows like 'Nationwide' and the TODAY Show as well as across the BBC World Service, which has a listenership of 22 million people.

During the first couple of months of the Coronavirus pandemic, Colm was based in New York and produced and presented two powerful 'Nationwide' programs that documented how the Irish community was coping and going above and beyond to be there for each other.

Specializing in human interest stories, his work has brought him all over the world, "I get such a thrill from traveling and meeting new people. I'm constantly in awe of how humans can thrive in the face of adversity and I feel lucky I get to share their stories with the world."

Congratulations Nicole Herendeen!

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your colleague.

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IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Ciara Archer

Where you live:

Mesa, Arizona

Place of Birth:

Albuquerque,
New Mexico

Age:

27

Family: My father, Dr. Leo Archer, is a proud Dublin-born man who met the love of his life, Susan, in college at the University of New Mexico. They settled down and eventually had me and my little brother, Taidgh. We all

reside in Mesa, AZ and my beloved maternal grandparents, Janice and Clifford, moved from New Mexico last year to live closer to the family. We have 8 rescue pups of various breeds and sizes.

First Job: Marketing Intern at the Greater Phoenix Economic Council

What it taught me: My first "real" job in my field was with the economic development public-private partnership the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. As an intern here, I learned the importance of community and being amenable to whatever a job throws at you. It also strengthened my love of Arizona and the Southwest and instilled in me a desire to represent my home in as many capacities as possible.

Current Company and position: Currently, I am the Operations Director at the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library in Phoenix, Arizona.

Best advice you could give someone starting out; 1. Your first job doesn't have to be your dream job. 2. Knowing what you don't like is equally as important as knowing

what you do like. 3. Ask questions, use your head (and Google), take comfort in knowing you don't have to know all of the answers right away. 4. Be kind and professional to everyone you meet - you never know when you may work with them again. 5. Don't lose yourself in your job. Find a passion outside of work and make time for it. 6. Don't be afraid of mistakes - but own up to them and plan how to avoid them in the future.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Being Irish is a part of everything I do. From my job to my social life - it is present in so many ways. Being of Irish descent provides a community that connects me to my roots - and gives an extended family to call upon in good times and bad. I love promoting the Arizona Irish community and showcasing its unique qualities.

Having the ability to promote Irish women through our Rose of Tralee and Arizona Colleen programs provides me with an outlet to impact future generations both at home and abroad.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. I worked at Disneyland for a year in college and received credit for it
2. I was born on Mother's Day
3. I performed with the rock band Foreigner

Ciara Archer is an established business professional with experience in both the public and private sectors. A graduate of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, Ciara's skills vary from media relations and storytelling to organizational leadership. Ciara has worked with organizations as large as Super Bowl XLIX and the Town of Gilbert to mom-and-pop shops on a variety of projects.

Previously, Ciara worked with an Arizona-based public affairs firm on several Arizona state ballot initiatives as well as successful Congressional races for both local and federal candidates. Here, she also worked with local nonprofits on their public relations efforts and maintained

the social media accounts for several candidates and organizations.

Most recently, Ciara worked as the Content Manager for Dogtopia, North America's leading dog daycare franchise. She created assets to be used in companywide campaigns as well as contributed to the overall marketing success of the company. She dealt with franchisees from all over the country and helped promote the nonprofit arm, the Dogtopia Foundation.

Currently, she serves as the Operations Director of the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library in Phoenix, Arizona. Here, Ciara is responsible for managing and organizing both small and large-scale events, fundraising efforts, programming, marketing, and global citizenship.

Ciara's passion for the Arizona Irish community has also led to her broad involvement and leadership in heritage programs as a unique avenue for her combined skills. As a first-generation Irish American, she has had the unique opportunity to be selected as the 2015 Friends of St. Patrick-Arizona Chapter Young Ambassador and as the 2016 Arizona Colleen & Rose of Tralee. In both of these roles, she represented Arizona Irish both locally and abroad.

Her commitment to the Arizona Irish community is reiterated through her endless hours of volunteering at the center. She has chaired large scale events such as the 2019 Irish International Famine Commemoration where she worked first hand with Irish government officials. Her passion can also be seen in her success in running the Arizona Colleen & Rose of Tralee programs. Since 2017, her efforts with this program can be quantified through thousands of fundraising dollars, increased involvement of young professionals in the community, and sustainable support from local businesses and community members. She has continued to show the world the importance of Arizona Irish and enjoys working closely with the community to connect the global and Arizona Irish diaspora.



Brendan Sullivan

Where you live:

Rocky Hill

Place of Birth:

Hartford

Age:

25

Family: Thomas A. Sullivan- Father; Margaret "Peggy" Sullivan-

Mother; Shauna Sullivan- Sister and her Fiancé Timothy Callahan; Tom

Sullivan- Brother; Jared Sullivan- Brother.

First Job: Funeral Director/Embalmer

What it taught me: Being a Funeral Director has taught me to be there for someone no matter how big or small the task is. We are here to serve the people who call upon us to take the burden off of them in some of the toughest and darkest days in their life.

Current Company and position: Funeral Director/Embalmer

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Be patient, listen and never say no. Funerals are such an important life event and mean so much to people. We try to make funerals as tailored to an individual as possible, so giving families everything they want or ask for is the most important advice to give someone.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Being of Irish Heritage plays a factor in my daily life. We have funeral services for many people who are from Ireland and also of Irish heritage. I also belong to various clubs and organizations such as the Irish American Home Society, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2, The Friendly Sons

of Saint Patrick and also participating in the Irish Road Bowling tournament in Hartford.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I am a firefighter in 2 towns.
2. I played in the American Legion World Series in 2014
3. At the time I received my funeral director's license, I was the youngest person in the State of Connecticut.

Brendan has joined the Farley-Sullivan staff as a third generation of Sullivan's to get his license. Brendan graduated from Rocky Hill High School in 2013 and from American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service in 2015. Brendan is a communicant of Corpus Christi Church in Wethersfield. He is a member of many groups and organizations such as the Saint Paul Men's Club where he is also on the Board of Directors, Ancient Order of Hibernians, is on the Ambassadors Committee of the Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs(HYPE), A member of Leadership Greater Hartford, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a member of the Irish American Home Society, a firefighter for the Rocky Hill Fire Department as well as the Glastonbury Fire Department, a coach for Glastonbury Senior League Baseball, as well as playing baseball for the Orioles of the Connecticut Twilight League and a member of the Hartford GAA. Brendan was named to the Hartford Business Journal's 40 Under Forty Class of 2018.



Aileen McGuire

Where you live:

Texas

Place of Birth:

Newark New Jersey

Age:

25

Family: Leo McGuire is my father; Erin Mericle is my sister who received

40 under 40 last year.

First Job: Adult probation officer

What it taught me: This job taught me how to teach and preach my ways of life to others. Allowing others to understand that there are chances for those who are at the lowest part of their life. Addiction or crime does not define you. Allowing yourself to feel the low but to make sure you do not allow yourself to stay there!

Current Company and position: Adult probation of Brazoria county Texas community supervision officer

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Do not get overwhelmed or frustrated when someone doesn't take your advice. Even if someone decides to reoffend or break their sober strike remember it is all about how long they went, try not to point out the

negative!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My mother's side is from Cork where we have visited a few times. Irish dancing was my passion growing up. Traveling to Belfast and the Republic was something of a dream. The feeling of home was all around us.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. The youngest probation officer in my department
2. I aspire to open multiple business for dogs as well as felons.
3. I moved across the county with a few hundred dollars to my name.. and succeed!

Aileen McGuire is somewhat of a force. She is strong minded and has been through things that help others navigate through their own struggles. Others learn from her positive mind and drive to always become better regardless of what life throws at you. She found her happiness through learning to cope with experiences others could not find the good in. When the storm gets too rough she finds the constant wave. Paving her own path was not easy and many doubted her ability. She continues to show others that the sky is the limit.



HONORING OUR HERITAGE

BY INVESTING IN IRELAND'S FUTURE

From one group of young leaders to another:
we also color outside the lines.

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IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Alicia MacLoughlin

Where you live: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Age: 25

Family: Father: Guillermo MacLoughlin; Mother: Alicia Moyano; Brothers: Guillermo and Francisco "Pancho"; Dogs: Shakespeare, Lost, and Quique. My forefathers came from Glascom, 5 miles west of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, in 1851. I am the 7th Irish generation in Argentina.

First Job: Client Experience Officer, CHUKKA Caribbean Adventures (Montego Bay, Jamaica) (chukka.com)

What it taught me: "Satisfying work is about enjoying the process, not just the product. Don't become a writer to have your name on a book. Don't become a writer because you like reading. Become a writer if you like writing. Pride in the result is not a substitute for joy in creating it." - Adam Grant

Current Company and position: Manager of Programs and Operations, Puentes Abroad (puentesabroad.com) Puentes builds bridges for students and recent graduates to cross into professional and cultural opportunities in Argentina and Uruguay. We design, set up, and manage customized and meaningful internship programs and immersive trips, which are complemented by personalized career development, engaging cultural activities, and constant support before, during, and after the

Puentes adventure. We achieve this through meticulous and cheerful organization, local know-how, and vast experience working with participants, universities, and partner institutions.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Find the people who challenge you and inspire you to be the best version of yourself and to always grow. Be picky with your friends, your supervisor, your colleagues. It matters who we have around us in terms of our mood, our growth, our impact. Choose your people wisely!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I co-founded "Glascom Polo"; we organize customized polo experiences such as polo holidays, online and in-person clinics, Estancia Day Trips, and more. Glascom is the place where the MacLoughlins, who emigrated to Argentina in the mid-19th century, come from. (glascompolo.com).

I am the president of the Irish Business Network Argentina (IBNA), which is a hub for business people with a connection to Ireland in Argentina, established with support from the Irish Embassy in Argentina and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. (ibnargentina.com)

I am a contributor for The Southern Cross (TSC), the oldest newspaper in the Irish Diaspora, founded in 1875. (thesoutherncross.info)

At 14 years of age, I joined my dad Guillermo MacLoughlin in the 1st Global Irish

Economic Forum, which took place in Farmleigh, Dublin, in 2007.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. Adventure makes me tick: I play polo and I have tried skydiving, paragliding, rock climbing, kitesurfing, surfing, snowboarding, and other action sports.
2. My body is extremely flexible (and my mind is too!).
3. My mother and grandmother are also called Alicia.

Alicia is a big proponent of experiential learning and she firmly believes that "the best way to predict the future is to create it." She currently coordinates polo experiences, international internship programs and immersive trips. She has previously worked as Client Experience Officer at CHUKKA Caribbean Adventures in Jamaica and as Brand Ambassador at Newport Polo Club in the U.S. Alicia studied Business, Data Science, and User Experience (UX), and she is often taking courses, hackathons, and jams to develop new skills.

She also conducts workshops to share her knowledge on tech tools and productivity. You will always find her asking questions and trying new things, and in her free time, she takes joy in contemporary dance, acrobatics, outdoor activities, and playing polo.



Matthew Sweeney

Where you live: Floral Park, New York

Place of Birth: Mineola, New York

Age: 21

Family: Father- Matthew Sweeney, Sr.; Mother- Barbara Sweeney; Sisters - Monika and Bridgid Sweeney; Grandfather- Donald Spiess; Grandmother- Monika Spiess; Aunt- Carol Spiess.

First Job: Plumber's Helper

What it taught me: Setting up to work often takes longer than the work itself and if preparation was done hastily, the quality of the work will decrease, money will be lost on having to solve unnecessary issues, and you're likely to get hurt or hurt others. As the saying goes, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail."

Current Company and position: Environmental Engineering Intern at Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: While untethered to life's mounting responsibilities, gather experience in as many aspects of your field as possible and be willing to try new positions while keeping your sight on a long-term goal.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Primarily through maintaining the family history with horsemanship on my father's side. My family and I ride a few times a year typically and always watch the Triple Crown races, going to the Belmont Stakes when it looks likely

there's to be a new horse crowned. We've been to the still-operating Sweeney Family Duhill Stud in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary and we still correspond with our cousins running the place.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I quite enjoy writing poetry
2. I have long-term dreams of fronting a rock band
3. I make my own hot sauces and cultivate various varieties of hot peppers

Regaled by tales of his Irish horsemen ancestors, a young Matt Sweeney dreamt of one day training his own stallions. Sweeney kept the dream alive by frequenting Belmont Park and telling the story of his great-grandfather Bart Sweeney of Co. Tipperary who helped train two Triple Crown winners in addition to numerous champion steeds.

The community service aspect of his nature is directly tied to his Irish heritage with his paternal grandparents always having been fixtures in the Irish Catholic community and society at large. "If you want to achieve happiness in life, you need to serve others" is a mantra passed on to the Sweeney Family through an Irish American family friend and hero firefighter who passed away on September 11th, 2001. It is one that he has taken to heart in his endeavors at Manhattan College and beyond.

Matt Sweeney hopes that his services may continue to serve communities for decades to come!



Kekoa McClellan

Where you live: Honolulu Hawaii

Place of Birth: Kailua Hawaii

Age: 36

Family: Wife: Makana McClellan; Daughter Emma Sophia (7), Son Verissimo (6), Daughter Arabella Rose (2).

First Job: Mail clerk at a law firm

What it taught me: Organization is everything.

Current Company and position: The, McClellan Group - Principal
The McClellan Group (TMG) is a full-service public affairs and government relations firm. TMG has extensive experience in dealing with local, state and federal agencies and policy makers. Our approach focuses on knowledge-based solutions that meet our clients' legislative, regulatory and community building objectives.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Show up on time. Done is better than perfect. Spend less than you make. And always, always, listen to your wife.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

Being a part of the great Irish American diaspora is a badge of honor. Like many Irish Americans and especially those of us who call Hawaii home, I am proud of my Irish roots and the multitude of ethnicities that I am fortunate to share. Being Hawaiian, Irish, Scottish, English, and Portuguese has offered me a unique perspective on history, and on my own life experiences. Holding the mutually exclusive beliefs of my forefathers in juxtaposition with modern realities and sensibilities has afforded me an altogether unique life context. And in a world full of IG copy cats, this self-awareness is a daily celebration of and the greatest gift bestowed upon me by my Irish heritage and all my ethnicities.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I own a car as old as I am (A Chrysler New Yorker- Fifth Avenue).
2. Huge Oprah fan.
3. I refuse to let anyone other than me cut my grass or care for my yard.

Principal and Lead Consultant at the McClellan Group, Kekoa McClellan has worked in politics his entire life. In addition to consulting on and managing more than 200 political campaigns, Kekoa has served as Chief of Staff to the Honolulu Council's Fourth Council District, he has represented native interests on Capitol Hill, and counts among his clients at The McClellan

Group the world's largest hotel association, the world's largest hotel REIT, the Wireless Infrastructure Association, Local and national non-profit organizations, and fortune 500 firms. Kekoa also co-owns Pryzm Consulting, a successful civil and environmental engineering firm with clients throughout Hawaii and the Pacific. Kekoa has been consistently recognized as one of Hawai'i's most influential young business leaders. In addition to being of Irish ancestry Kekoa is proud of his Native Hawaiian, Scottish, English, and Portuguese heritage. McClellan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hawai'i Pacific University and an Executive MBA from the Shidler College of Business.



Ancient Order of **HIBERNIANS** Irish • Catholic • American



Founded in 1836 with membership in all 50 states, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is the largest Irish Organization in the United States, and the oldest and largest Irish-Catholic Organization in the United States.

IRISH UNDER
4040

Congratulations to our up-and-coming personalities of Irish America!



Brother Michael Tobin is a teacher and the President of the Colonial Patrick O'Rourke Division 7 in Rochester New York.

It is a great honor to have been nominated for the Irish Echo's 40 under 40 award. I am proud to represent my heritage and my AOH Brothers and the charitable work they do.



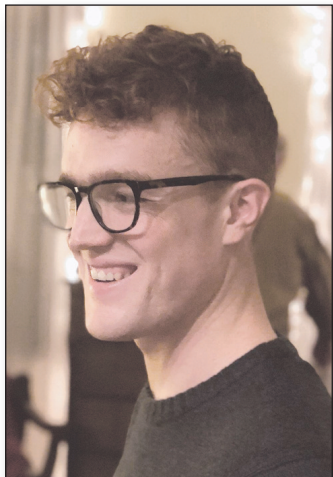
Brother Sean Patricia is a Strategy and Transformation Excellence Manager at UPS Corporate and is the acting Vice President of the Archbishop Donoghue Division in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I am humbled to be considered for the 40 under 40 award. It is an honor to be a Hibernian."

WWW.AOH.COM /JOIN

"Ireland Unfree Shall Never be at Peace"

IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Mícheál Curtin

Where you live: Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Brooklyn

Place of Birth: Brooklyn

Age: 33

Family: My family is a revelrous NYC-bred tribe with roots and branches in Colombia, the West Indies, Chicago, and in LGBTQ+ America.

My father's family was famine Irish, arriving with a slew of others during the crisis that defined New York City as much as it defined Ireland. As the generations went on, they became involved in the Irish political establishment and reaped its privileges. My mother's family is from Galway and Cavan and we have kept up connections with cousins in Ireland, the US, and in England over the years.

First Job: Political Staffer and Organizer

What it taught me: Not to be afraid to change careers. I learned that the things I was good at didn't align with the original vision I had for myself. So, I became an artist/educator.

Current Company and position: Project Director, CUNY Creative Arts Team. I direct a Drama-in-Education team of Actor-Teachers and Counselors who work in five high schools around New York City, using drama as a teaching tool to build critical thinking and social and emotional learning skills. I am also a Freelance Educator and Group Facilitator with communities in both Ireland and the US.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Reflect on your implicit bias from the start. Ask yourself questions about why you are or aren't drawn to certain people, why you do and don't trust particular folks, and whose voices you might be amplifying or shutting out. If you are an advocate for inclusion of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized

voices from the beginning, you will learn more than any degree could teach you.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? The Irish language is deeply important to me. Becoming fluent in Irish is by far my greatest source of pride. Understanding my heritage has been eye-opening. It gave me perspective on who we have been throughout history and can be in the future. Namely, if the Irish community in the USA is going to have a part in undoing white supremacy, which I hope it does, then understanding our heritage— the good and the bad— will be key to that.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I can teach in three languages
2. I see defunding the police as an Irish issue.
3. I knit.

Mícheál Curtin is an educator who uses drama as a teaching tool in communities in the US and in Ireland. The generosity of the communities he has worked with, particularly the young people of New York City's public schools, and the residence of the Gaeltacht in Ireland, has offered him a rich perspective on the modern-day impact of colonialism.

Mícheál is presently a Project Director for the Literacy through Drama program at the CUNY Creative Arts Team, where he works with a talented team of teaching artists and counselors to bring drama-based workshops to New York City public high school students.

Mícheál has used this approach in schools in Ireland to teach the Irish language and to facilitate conversations about the role of the language in Ireland. He is proud to be recognized by the Irish Echo for his accomplishments.



Mark Costello

Where you live: West Orange, NJ

Place of Birth: Staten Island, NY

Age: 38

Family: Brianna Costello (Wife); Therese & Gerald Costello (Mother and Father); Karen and Brian Kennedy (Sister and Brother-in-Law); Jaclyn Costello (Sister)

First Job: Apprentice Structural Ironworker with Local 40

What it taught me: After graduating high school, I went to work with my father that summer as a structural ironworker with Local 40. I learned the meaning of a hard day's work, earning a living, discipline, teamwork, and being accountable for yourself.

Current Company and position: I currently work as a Site Safety Manager with Gilbane Building Company in New York City.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: You are never guaranteed or given a position or title, you have to learn and earn it. Always be ready to learn something new and open to advice along the way. You do not get anywhere in life or business without help and knowledge from others that have been there and done it.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Coming from a long line of construction workers with Irish heritage, I always embraced the hardworking and strong family values both on the job and at home. I have also traveled to the regions where my ancestors originated from (both in Ireland and Newfoundland CA) to better experience the culture.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

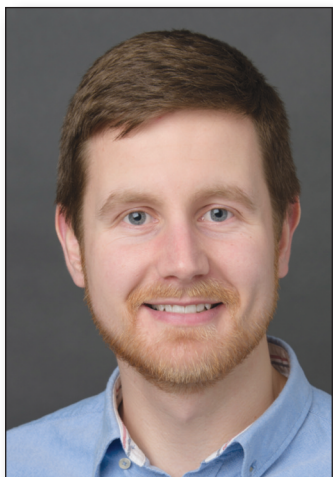
1. I was cast in two Broadway shows while in my grade school chorus.
2. I have three amazing cats and am a complete cat dad.
3. I was a competitive swimmer from the age of six to 22.

Born October 1982 in Staten Island NY. 12 years of catholic schooling and graduating from Monsignor Farrell High School in 2000. Spent 6 years at SUNY New Paltz where was a member of the swim team and captained the team the last two years. Graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Economics.

After college, went to work for Hunter Roberts Construction Group in New York City as an assistant project manager. Continued working for them for 6 years moving up the ranks to Superintendent and receiving the first of my official safety certifications as a Fire Safety Manager. Left Hunter Roberts to work for Cava Construction where was elevated to Assistant General Superintendent.

Moved to Jersey City and new company Structuritone to lead the construction and completion of a medical office building in Weehawken NJ. After being offered a position with Lend Lease Construction in New York, went back to the city to work as Superintendent. During the time at Lend Lease received the prestigious and hard to obtain certification of Site Safety Manager with the DOB (Department of Buildings). Also worked on some of the most iconic buildings in New York City such as 432 Park Avenue (Tallest residential building in the western hemisphere at the time) and 220 Central Park South (Most expensive and exclusive residential building in NYC). Leaving Lend Lease in 2018, accepted a position as Site Safety Manager with Gilbane Building Company to manage the day-to-day safety on the construction of a new 34 story office building in Brooklyn, NY.

Currently managing the safety at a new project which will become another new 24 story office building in Brooklyn, NY. While working for Cava in 2013, met his wife Brianna through a mutual friend even though they had met before at a party thrown at my family summer house. Continued dating for the next four and half years and then in July of 2018 proposed to her at Warwick Winery with friends from work under the ruse of celebrating one of their birthdays. Married in October 2019 and purchased first home in January of 2020 in West Orange, NJ.



Keenan Lacey

Where you live: New York City

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland

Age: 29

Family: Parents: Des and Mary. Brother: Rowan.

First Job: Working in the local newsagents

What it taught me: How to make the perfect 99 ice cream!

Current Company and position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Take every opportunity that comes your way - say yes to everything!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I love the arts - I'm a regular at the Irish Rep Theatre and the Irish Arts Center. I can also be found at many of the brilliant trad sessions in the city.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I can ride a unicycle!
2. I have run 4 marathons
3. I travelled the Trans-Siberian railway across Russia

Keenan was born and raised in Dublin. He holds a B.A. in Microbiology and a Ph.D. in Immunology from Trinity College Dublin. Keenan moved to New York City in 2018. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Microbiology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. His research focuses on the development of new treatment strategies against life-threatening infectious diseases. Keenan's research has been published in numerous highly regarded journals and he has been invited to speak at multiple national and international conferences. Keenan's research is supported by the National Institute of Health and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Keenan is an active member of The New York Academy of Science and served as an executive board member of INet NYC, an organization that provides support and professional development opportunities for international scientists in NYC. Keenan is a committed member of the Irish community in NYC and has served as the co-chair of The Irish Network NYC for the past year and a half. During his time with INNOCY, he has been involved in organizing over 20 events for the Irish community.

Congratulations Thomas Griffith

IRISH
40
UNDER
40



From Your Friends at
West Gulf Maritime Association



IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Mairead Rogan

Where you live: Astoria

Place of Birth: Bronx

Age: 31

Family: I am the youngest of 3 and have an older sister, Jackie (Joe), and an older brother, Jimmy (Steph). My dad works in sales and is the funniest person I know. He taught me how to talk to anyone, think big, and "just keep plugging." My mom recently retired from a spectacular nursing career, which was governed entirely by her intelligence, integrity, and intuition. She taught my siblings and I how to read early and made it fun and exciting; I will never be able to measure how many ways that shaped my life. Everyone tells me "You have great parents!" and I agree. My grandmother, Breda Flynn, emigrated from Co. Kerry and my grandfather, Jim Flynn, emigrated from Co. Leitrim.

First Job: Stand-Up Comedienne

What it taught me: That anything is possible! I learned to trust myself implicitly and to avoid "those cold and timid souls, who neither know victory, nor defeat." I have since concluded that life is a stage: you open the door to true friendship and originality when you have the courage to be yourself.

Current Company and position: Account Sales Representative at Natera

Best advice you could give someone starting out: I would tell them not to sweat it--pride grows back. Keep trying and learning new things. Always commit to the next level: A+ effort begets

invitations to A+ companies (and galas!)

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I grew up in a predominately Irish American enclave of the Bronx, where people help each other simply because it is the right thing to do. I celebrate my heritage whenever I pay it forward because my hometown showed me how. I also serve on the board of the Irish Business Organization and will not rest until we land Conan O'Brien as a guest speaker.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. My name is actually pronounced "Ra-chel."
2. Just kidding.
3. I low key love the opera. Puccini makes me cry.

Mairead Rogan was born and raised in Woodlawn, NY. She graduated from the Ursuline School in 2008 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English literature from Siena College in 2012. Mairead began her career in the beauty industry at amika: a successful hair care startup in Brooklyn. After a few years of hard work, she found herself rubbing elbows with industry titans at Laura Geller's office in Manhattan. Following a brief stint at Georgia Pacific, her creativity, agility, and curiosity have led her to her current and most challenging role as a sales rep for Natera: a rapidly growing biogenetic company specializing in women's health.

Mairead is also a gifted resume writer and job hunter. As a board member of the Irish Business Organization, she works to cultivate a sense of community and empower its members find work and believe in themselves, even amidst this time of economic upheaval.



Liam Garvey

Where you live: Boston, Massachusetts

Place of Birth: Springfield, Massachusetts

Age: 25

Family: Bill (father), Maureen (mother), Dillon (brother), Sinéad (sister), and Conor (brother)

First Job: Working in the kitchen at a retirement home

What it taught me: Working on the weekend and on weeknights in high school wasn't always fun, but it taught me how to work hard in every job and the value of paying for your own bills and expenses yourself.

Current Company and position: Development Manager, Environmental League of Massachusetts

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Appreciate and try to take advantage of every opportunity given to you.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I appreciate the Irish communities near my hometown including Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts as well as my adopted hometown of Boston. I will travel far to listen to good Irish music and love experiencing Irish cultural institutions across New England. The Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade is a necessity to experience at least once.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I was born on Christmas.
2. My brothers and I all have the same middle name - Patrick.
3. I have never traveled outside of the U.S.

Liam Patrick Garvey was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and grew up in West Springfield, Massachusetts. After attending West Springfield High School, he graduated from Brandeis University in 2018 with a B.A. cum laude in Politics and Environmental Studies. Throughout his time in college, Liam interned for a political campaign, in the office of a state senator, and in the state energy and environmental office. He also served as captain of the cross country and track and field teams at Brandeis. Liam moved to Boston, Massachusetts shortly after graduation and began working for the Environmental League of Massachusetts. In his free time, he enjoys watching Boston sports, running around Boston, exploring the mountains of New England, and listening to Irish music.



Kieran McGirl

Where you live: Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York

Place of Birth: Watkins Glen, New York

Age: 27

Family: Poppa and GG: Al and Cathy O'Hagan; Parents: Kevin and Sheila McGirl; Siblings: Siobhan, Sean, and Kayla McGirl; Girlfriend: Erin Marie Morgan.

First Job: Groundskeeper Diocese of Camden Age 15

What it taught me: This job taught me how long a four-hour shift can actually feel. It also taught me about the importance of hard work and how important it is to have pride in that hard work. At the end of the day, I would walk around, look at what I had done, and smile.

Current Company and position: ABC News/Good Morning America Producer

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Never take no for an answer. If you believe you can do something and want it more than anything, you can find a way. "Do or do not, there is no try." - Yoda

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I grew up seeing the Irish community in its purest form following the example of Al O'Hagan, my grandfather. O'Hagan was the Grand Marshal of the 1986 St. Patrick's Day Parade and successfully ran the Great Irish Fair of New York for more than 20 years, raising millions of dollars for Catholic Charities. He also taught me what it means to be a man, how important it is to stand not only for what you believe in but to stand for what is right, and how important our culture and heritage is to all of that. He taught me the history of our people. Building the

subways, the bridges...he taught me the history of "No Irish Need Apply" of the Great Hunger and the stories of our own family. Because of my grandfather I am an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 19 and a board member of the Irish American Building Society. I work to continue the legacy of the Great Irish fair and everything it stands for. I frequently work with Irish musicians including the likes of Andy Cooney. This past summer I produced a new video for Andy "We're all in this together" reminding everyone, through Irish music and storytelling, that if we band together, we will get through this tough time. I live by the motto that if you're lucky enough to be Irish you are lucky enough.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I used to sell golfballs to golfers as they passed by my backyard which happened to be on a golf course.
2. I had the lead in my High School Musical "Anything Goes" and won an acting award for my performance, not so much the singing part.
3. I am an FAA Licensed Drone Pilot

Kieran McGirl is an Edward R. Murrow and Emmy Award winning Producer for Good Morning America. A graduate of Gloucester Catholic High School in Gloucester City New Jersey, Kieran now lives in Brooklyn New York and has always had a passion for storytelling.

In college at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut he was featured in a reality TV show competition called NESN's Next Producer. Kieran produced a film as part of

the competition called "The Rise of Johnny Hockey" The film was named one of the winners of the contest. Landing him a full-time position at the New England Sports Network as a Features Producer. While at NESN Kieran worked closely with the Boston Red Sox and community in the city of Boston. Kieran was nominated and won his first Emmy award for a story he produced called "For Ari" telling the story of a little boy with a heart defect whose love of baseball outweighed the pain he went through everyday. In his Emmy acceptance speech he asked people "...to live life like Ari."

Kieran then accepted a position with ABC News as a Producer for Good Morning America. He has covered a wide range of stories ranging from the COVID 19 pandemic to a special series of stories known as Tell TJ, where GMA highlights community heroes around the country.

Kieran has always had a passion for helping those around him serving on the board of the Irish American Building Society. Aiding in its efforts to continue the Great Irish Fair of New York, helping to move the festival to a virtual format this past September due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, keeping the tradition alive in these uncertain times. He is an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 19. Kieran has also volunteered with local parish communities in Brooklyn and serves as a mentor for many students at his Alma Mater, Sacred Heart University.

He is most inspired by the work of his grandfather Al O'Hagan and his mother Sheila O'Hagan McGirl. He hopes through his storytelling and example, that he can help to make the world a better place.



Congratulations Thomas Griffith! and all the 2021 Honorees

From all the Team at
Red Hook Terminals





Jennifer Flynn

Where you live: North Merrick, NY

Place of Birth: Howard Beach, NY

Age: 35

Family: I'm Irish American, my Great-Grandparents proudly come from Carndonagh Donegal (McLaughlin), Carrowmena Donegal (Beatty) and County Waterford (Flynn).

First Job: Library Page- Queens Library

What it taught me: Working at the library as a young adult taught me about responsibility and ensuring a strong work ethic. I also learned about diversity of people, various literatures and resources available.

Current Company and position: I'm currently the Section Manager of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion for Consolidated Edison Company of New York.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Your integrity is an important aspect of who you are. Show your commitment, dedication and ability to work hard and persevere early on.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My Irish Heritage is imbedded in me. I'm very proud of my family who immigrated here; their strength, bravery and strong conviction. Continuing to embrace traditions, tell stories and share lessons of our ancestors help to shape who we are today.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I've enjoyed fishing with my family since I was a young girl
2. Studied abroad in Europe
3. Aspirations to improve my golf game competitively

Jennifer Diane Flynn was born and raised in Howard Beach, Queens New York. Jennifer is a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Howard Beach, Queens where she also attended grammar school. Jennifer's devotion to the Catholic faith stems from her strong Catholic family upbringing and going to mass with her Grandmother Patricia every Sunday. Jennifer attributes her values from the lessons taught to her by her family, specifically her father Stephen and mother Christine, grandparents and her large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins. Jennifer is an Irish American; her Great-Grandparents proudly came from Carndonagh Donegal (McLaughlin), Carrowmena Donegal (Beatty) and County Waterford (Flynn).

Jennifer continued her Catholic education in High School; she is a graduate of The Mary Louis Academy (TMLA) in Jamaica

Estates, Queens. Jennifer was captain of the softball team, leader of spirit days, dance team and was the President of the Irish Society. Jennifer was always actively involved with the liturgies and services at TMLA and with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Jennifer continues to volunteer with TMLA and speak to the young women leaders about personal and professional development.

Jennifer attended Iona College in New Rochelle, NY for her Bachelors of Arts degree and Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Jennifer remained close to her faith, Irish roots and was a distinguished leader on campus as she was worked closely with Brother J. Kevin Devlin within student retention, new student orientations and the various students on campus. Jennifer was also on the dance team, Gaelic Society and marched proudly with Iona in the NYC St. Patrick's Day parade.

Soon after graduating from Iona, Jennifer began working at Consolidated Edison Company of New York as a union employee, Local 1-2 Administrative Clerk. Upon completion of her Masters degree, Jennifer became an Equal Employment Opportunity Investigator for the company and also facilitated compliance based trainings. After thirteen years, increasing responsibility and many leadership roles, Jennifer was recently promoted to the Section Manager of Con Edison's Office of Diversity & Inclusion where she leads the Corporate Diversity & Inclusion strategy. Jennifer and her team are responsible for advancing a culture of inclusion and respect by designing and delivering impactful training, innovative programs, resources and learning tools. Jennifer continues to play an integral role in shaping and leading the company's culture – where every employee is acknowledged and respected for their unique talents, backgrounds and experiences. Jennifer is a respected leader and mentor to her fellow employees. Jennifer also has oversight of the company's expanding Employee Resource Groups and Local D&I Councils. Jennifer is an active leader of the Emerald Society of Consolidated Edison of NY Co Inc which has been incorporated since 1962.

Jennifer has been integral in revitalizing the Society to have corporate alignment and to be recognized internally. Her leaderships helps to highlight Irish culture and community through organizing, managing and producing events. Last year, Irish History month was celebrated with His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan as the keynote speaker.

Jennifer is extremely honored to be nominated and selected to be recognized as Irish Echo's 40 under 40!



Michael Tobin

Where you live: Rochester, New York

Place of Birth: Alexandria, Virginia

Age: 36

Family: Wife, Mindy; Son, Callan

First Job: Construction Field, Painting, Landscaping, General Construction, Sealing Driveways

What it taught me: It taught me the importance of hard work, careful planning, focusing on details, and efficiency.

Current Company and position: Rochester City School District – Special Education Teacher High school and middle school

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Surround yourself with great people, be the type of person others want around them. You are a reflection of who you surround yourself with, and you represent more than yourself.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I am fortunate that my Irish heritage has embraced me. I am 3rd generation Irish American and I grew up with close ties to my family and the Irish culture growing up in Elmira with the Hibernian center. In Rochester, we have such an incredible Irish community and the AOH is at the center of it. As division president, I am responsible for leading our division in these challenging times and as we continue our good work of the AOH serving our community and sharing our proud heritage.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I am a proud Dad to a NICU grad.
2. I am a cancer survivor.
3. I love Star Wars... that's not a big surprise to most people who know me.

Michael was born to Timothy and Maggie Tobin in Alexandria, Virginia. Michael's family moved from the DC metro area to his mother's hometown of Elmira, New York where he grew up with two younger sisters, Maria and Erin. Michael grew up as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernian's in Elmira with his parents and grandparents. In high school, Michael was diagnosed with Stage II Testicular cancer and during his treatment, he began working with the American

Cancer Society and has continued to give back to his community ever since. He received the Service Scholarship to attend St. John Fisher College in Rochester New York where he started the Relay For Life his freshman year and then helped start similar events at other local colleges, helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for cancer research.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree in History and Adolescent Special education, Michael started working with students with disabilities in the Rochester City School District where he has been teaching high school and middle school for 14 years. He has been active in the local teacher's union, organizing new members, and representing teachers as a Building Representative (steward). He finished a master's degree in history from SUNY Brockport in 2009 and a certificate in Labor Relations from Cornell in 2019.

Michael continued to be an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Rochester. Michael organized the Col. Patrick O'Rourke AOH Division's charity and volunteer efforts for several years, partnering with Ronald McDonald House, Veterans Outreach Center, Golisano Children's Hospital, Foodlink, The American Cancer Society, and local homeless shelters in Rochester New York. In 2015, Michael was given the "Brother of the Year" award for his volunteer work. Michael joined the executive board as Financial Secretary in 2017, and he focused on membership retention, recruitment, and involvement, especially in the areas of volunteering and charitable giving. Michael was elected Vice President in 2019 and helped plan the "Guitars 4 Heroes" charity concerts to help support local veterans. Michael was elected President in 2021 and is focused on continuing to serve the Rochester community and sharing the Irish culture through the work of the AOH. In addition to his duties as Division President, Michael is working to bring the 2023 NYS AOH/LAOH convention to Rochester and has been working with National AOH leaders to improve division operations through technology training.

In October Michael and his wife, Mindy, welcomed their first child, a son, Callan Cecil Tobin, to the world. He is already a proud Hibernian like his father. They are looking forward to the world getting back to normal so Callan can be a part of the Rochester Irish community.



Hūlō!

CONGRATULATIONS

KEKOA

McCLELLAN

for being honored by the Irish Echo
for their 40 under 40 awards.



themcclellangroupllc.com



Conor Bagley
Producer, Director,
IAW&A Board Member

Comhghairdeas, a Chonchúir!

**Congratulations,
Conor Bagley!**

On being named to

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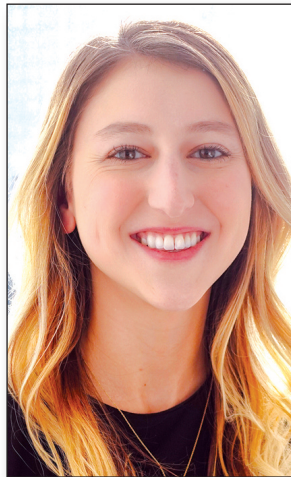


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IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Nicole Herendeen

Where you live:

South Boston, MA

Place of Birth:

Melrose, MA

Age:

26

Family: Father, John Herendeen; Mother, Angela Herendeen; Two older sisters: Ashley and Kristen Herendeen; Yellow lab dog named Harper

First Job: Public Affairs Associate at Benchmark Strategies

What it taught me: *Note: This is still my current job! (first job after graduating college). Please see below for what I have learned:

As a young professional at age 22, I began to build a career in public affairs and political communications at Benchmark Strategies. Working as a Senior Public Affairs Associate at Benchmark, I have learned how to effectively engage with Benchmark's clients and state and local elected officials, while also developing a better understanding of the intersection of business and politics. In addition, I continue to learn how to

strengthen my interpersonal communication skills in order to serve as an effective communicator and a strong, inclusive leader in the workplace.

Current Company and position: Company: Benchmark Strategies; Senior Public Affairs Associate.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: As a young professional in the workplace, do not be afraid to be the youngest in the room and be confident that you belong! When you are starting out in your career, consistently work to expand your network and skill set both professionally and personally. Last, do not let the pursuit of perfection get in the way of progress.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my Irish Heritage through my engagement with the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA), an organization committed to fostering economic and professional growth among its network of business and political leaders, while retaining and strengthening their connection to Ireland and Northern Ireland. Also, I embrace my Irish Heritage by cooking traditional Irish dinners and trying new recipes, especially Irish Beef Stew and Shepherd's Pie in the winter!

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I am involved as a member in the Young Professionals group for the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC), which works to raise the number of female politicians elected to public office.
2. At Benchmark, I helped facilitate a North West Ireland

trade and investment mission in Boston for fifteen companies from Donegal and Derry.

3. I am an aunt to two nephews and one niece. I also have a 3-year-old yellow lab dog named Harper!

Nicole serves as a Senior Public Affairs Associate at Benchmark Strategies, a public affairs and economic development firm based in Boston. Since joining Benchmark in 2017, Nicole has managed public affairs campaigns for startups, local companies, and multinational corporations as well as helped facilitate a variety of international business delegation visits to Boston. Currently, Nicole leads the firm's Massachusetts public policy reporting practice.

Outside of work, Nicole is committed to staying politically engaged in the community. In 2017, she volunteered for Mayor Martin J. Walsh's re-election campaign, working the phone banks and canvassing. Two years later, Nicole participated in the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Boston's Future Leaders (BFL) Program, a year-long program for emerging leaders under the age of 40, where she participated in sessions and workshops in management, inclusive leadership, and effective communications.

Prior to joining Benchmark, Nicole interacted with the political system on a local level through an internship in the Office of Congresswoman Katherine Clark (MA-5) and in the Rhode Island State House serving as a legislative intern for Representative Robert E. Craven. Nicole is a proud graduate of Providence College, where she received a degree in Political Science and English and completed the Liberal Arts Honors Program.



Michael Noonan

Where you live: New York, New York

Place of Birth: Livingston, New Jersey

Age: 39

Family: Wife- Sandra Noonan; Sister - Nicole Noonan; Mother - Alisson Noonan; Grandmother - Alice Pyne; Grandfather - James Pyne; Grandmother - Pearl Noonan; Grandfather - Paul Noonan; Uncle and Aunt - James and Tara Pyne; Cousins - James and Catherine Pyne; Brother-in-Law - Steven "Toast" Knobel.

First Job: J.P. Morgan

What it taught me: As an investment banker at J.P. Morgan, I learned the importance of grit

and the value of having great work colleagues.

Current Company and position: I am the VP of Operations at Clarifai, a venture backed AI (artificial intelligence) platform company.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Work smart and stay positive

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage through my family and love of Irish culture. I have a deep love of Irish authors and playwrights, in particular Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett, and Brendan Behan.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I was a Fulbright Scholar in Tartu, Estonia
2. I was a Lord Rothermere Scholar at Oxford University

3. I'm a competitive axe thrower.

Michael is responsible for Finance, Legal, People+Culture, and Strategy teams at Clarifai, an AI platform company. Prior to Clarifai, he was a Principal at Public Pension Capital, a private equity fund. Earlier experience includes private equity fund Eos Partners, J.P. Morgan and Greenhill & Co. Michael holds an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a BA from Duke University. He is a graduate of Delbarton School in Morristown, NJ and was a Fulbright Scholar in Estonia where he was a lecturer at the University of Tartu.



Michelle Crowley

Where you live: Alexandria, Kentucky

Place of Birth: Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Age: 32

Family: My father's family is from Ireland and my mother's family is from Germany.

First Job: Comair Airlines as a Ramp Agent

What it taught me: Hard work doesn't have to be hard. If you surround yourself with

the right people, even the dirtiest parts of a job can be fun.

Current Company and position: I am a lecturer of Communication Studies at Northern Kentucky University. I teach public speaking, communication, and popular culture courses; occasionally designing and teaching classes on special topics in popular culture, including Villains and Cult TV Shows.

I am the head of the social media team, blogger, board member, and theater lighting director at the Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step and requires more steps after that. Looking at the whole picture may be intimidating and paralyze you with fear. Focus on what you can do at the moment. Put one foot in front of the other and deal with problems as they come along.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My journey with my Irish heritage coincides with my involvement with the Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati. While studying theater in college, I was asked to be a guest stage manager for a visiting theater company. The following year,

I was asked for by name, and my relationship with the future founders of the Heritage Center became solid. Almost 15 years later, I continue to honor my heritage and celebrate our friendship. I've taken on a leadership role in helping our social media team make our mark on the world and bringing all things Irish to the greater Cincinnati area. This role evolved from my position on the board of directors. I was the youngest member to ever join the BoD at the Irish Heritage Center in 2014. I have led efforts to enrich the Irish culture in the young professionals' circles of the Cincinnati area.

I've had many opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills with the Irish Heritage Center. During events and concerts, I take on a role making sure things run smoothly behind the scenes. Some of these jobs aren't too glamorous. I came to an event in a nice dress, heels, and my hair fixed- but there was an issue with the power supply to the stage system. I was on my hands and knees, crawling through a network of wires, looking for the issue. The issue was resolved quickly, but I learned to always wear sensible clothing. In other jobs, I rub elbows with and work alongside international music acts like Derek Warfield; Broadway stars, Phantom of the Opera's Ciarán Sheehan; Ambassadors, and some of the most powerful people in Cincinnati. I will film and photograph events, adding to our extensive archive of material and keeping our Social Media family up to date with what's going on at the IHC.

I have been lighting director and technical director at numerous concerts and for 7 theatrical productions. These theatre productions include the Irish American Theatre Company's participation in the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival. The festival was held in Cincinnati in 2015. I have traveled with our theatre group to the Festival, as the technical director to Rochester, New York, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Listowel, Ireland. I received the adjudicator's award for lighting design for the production of Outside Mullingar in 2017. I have directed 3 plays, including the North American premiere of Faith by Irish playwright, Paul Meade.

Most recently, I have taken on the task of creating a

social media presence for the Center. I manage the Facebook page, which has connected with many of our members across the world. Now, working with a team, I oversee the IHC presence on all major social media platforms. In 2021 we will launch a new blog feature, including original material. I enjoy bringing stories, lore, food, music, and events from around the world to our membership, to Cincinnati, and to friends old and new.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. If you borrow my pocket knife, it will be razor sharp. I carefully sharpen every one of my knives.
2. I have met over 50 Hollywood celebrities. Some follow me on Twitter.
3. You will find everything from traditional blue grass to heavy metal music on my playlists.

Michelle Crowley was born and raised in Northern Kentucky. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Communication from Thomas More College, with an Associate's Degree in Creative Writing. She took a short trip into technical theater, but soon she retreated to a life in academia. After receiving her Masters of Arts in Communication from the University of Cincinnati, and reassigning theatre as a hobby, her life focus shifted to teaching. As she reaches 10 years of teaching in academia, Michelle is setting her sights on a Ph.D.

Through teaching, Michelle has found a way to combine her love of theatre and her passion for media and public communication. In the spring of 2020, Michelle created a successful course on a long-running, cult favorite, television show – that was only made better by the COVID19 lockdown. Through a social media effort, the class had the opportunity to personally chat with 11 of the actors, writers, and the showrunner.

When she isn't teaching or working with the Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati, Michelle takes any opportunity to travel the world and to attend Comic-Cons and Fan Conventions. Michelle has presented at 5 conventions and is working on her first group publication.

Comhghairdeas

Congratulations, 40 Under 40 Honorees

Especially our member, Michael O'Rourke

Business Attraction & Retention Manager, Office of International Business Development,
PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Join the Irish American Business Chamber & Network

Led by a dedicated Board of Directors, the Irish American Business Chamber & Network (IABCN) promotes the interests of our members and the development of commercial, economic, and educational relationships between the Greater Philadelphia Region & the Island of Ireland.

The Irish Chamber encourages and facilitates business relationships among its members by providing virtual educational and networking forums (returning to in person programming in mid to late 2021) and extensive opportunities for the exchange of information and ideas, especially about import/export issues, customs regulations, investment opportunities, industry trends, and market research.

With a solid record of accomplishment and achievement over the past twenty-two years, the Irish Chamber's trusted role in facilitating business development has been recognized on both sides of the Atlantic.



Connect with the Irish American Business Chamber & Network

www.iabcn.org • call/text 215.772.3101 • abarry@iabcn.org

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Congratulations to Kieran McGirl!

5th Generation AOH



**5th Generation American - Irish,
keeping the tradition alive!**

Your Grandpa, Al O'Hagan would be so proud!

We love you,

**GG, Mom, Dad, Uncle Shaun, Aunt Jess, Siobhan,
Sean and Kayla - Ryan and Norah too.**

IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Michael O'Rourke

Where you live:

Lititz, PA

Place of Birth:

Harrisburg, PA

Age:

38

Family: Sheila (wife), Aidan (son), and Maeve (daughter)

First Job:

Busboy

What it taught me:

It taught me how gratifying and powerful it is to serve and take care of

others, as well as reaffirming the joy of connecting with strangers.

Current Company and position: Business Attraction & Retention Manager, Office of International Business Development, PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Treat everyone with kindness and respect – you never know who you'll run in to again on your journey. Practice gratitude, and never forget to thank the family, friends, and colleagues who helped you along the way. Give them a call, or better yet, send them a handwritten note. And honor them by paying it forward with the next generation of professionals.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I celebrate my heritage by helping to build stronger economic ties between Pennsylvania and the island of Ireland.

I enjoy working closely with partners such as the Local Enterprise Office network, Enterprise Ireland, Invest

Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council, Cork Chamber of Commerce, Queen's University, Ulster University, and the Derry City & Strabane District Council on technology and business development opportunities, and collaborating on inbound and outbound missions. I was honored to represent Pennsylvania at the 2016 Medtec Ireland Exhibition in Galway and the 2019 National Ploughing Championships in County Carlow.

I am a member of the Irish American Business Chamber & Network and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and serve on the Steering Committee of The Ireland Funds Philadelphia Chapter.

I'd like to read and speak Irish one day and am enjoying the Duolingo mobile app lessons (special shout-out to a world-class educational tech company headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA).

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. I met my wife, Sheila, when we both volunteered at a peace and social justice organization in Northern Ireland (the Corrymeela Community).
2. I visited the Korean Demilitarized Zone.
3. I've been passionate about genealogy since I was a teenager and can go back 200+ years in most branches. I enjoy building relationships with distant relatives and collaborating together on research. The most rewarding moments have been answering questions for my paternal grandfather who lost his father at a young age and had little knowledge of his family history.

Michael O'Rourke works to promote the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to foreign companies seeking to locate or expand in the United States. His position involves collaborating with the state's seven overseas offices (covering 27 countries), and statewide economic development partners, to provide comprehensive support to each prospect. In recent years, Michael helped organize and participate in business development missions to Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ireland, the

Netherlands, South Korea, and the United Kingdom to promote Pennsylvania to international investors.

Michael's position at the commonwealth provides a unique platform to celebrate his Irish heritage while also helping to build stronger economic ties between Pennsylvania and the island of Ireland. He regularly partners with economic development agencies in Ireland and Northern Ireland on business development initiatives. He represented Pennsylvania at the 2016 Medtec Ireland Exhibition in Galway and the 2019 National Ploughing Championships (Europe's largest outdoor agricultural exhibition and trade show) in County Carlow.

Previously, Michael provided executive support to a former DCED Secretary, and worked for a non-profit economic development organization in Boston, MA, a successful state gubernatorial campaign, and a government affairs firm in Harrisburg, PA.

In 2007 and 2008, Michael served as a year-long volunteer for the Corrymeela Community, a peace and social justice organization in Northern Ireland. He was named Grand Marshal of the 2009 Harrisburg St. Patrick's Day Parade in recognition of his service.

Michael earned a B.A. degree in Business Administration and Economics at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, where he was Class President, a Resident Advisor, and a college radio disc jockey. He is currently pursuing the Economic Development Finance Professional Certification Program through the National Development Council. He is expected to complete the program in Spring 2021.

Michael is a member of the Irish American Business Chamber & Network and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and serves on the Steering Committee of The Ireland Funds Philadelphia Chapter.

Michael lives in Lititz, PA with his wife, two children, and dog. He enjoys volunteering in his community, playing the drums, attending live music events (and he can't wait for their return), hiking with his family, biking rails-to-trails, and cooking.



Melissa Ward

Where you live:

Milwaukee, WI

Place of Birth:

Ohio

Age:

28

Family: Parents: Mark and Shirley Nickels of Deshler, Ohio; Husband: Sean Ward of Brookfield, Wisconsin

First Job:

Communications Web Assistant

What it taught me:

How important it is to like what you do. I

loved this job, and when you love what you're doing, it becomes a lot easier to motivate yourself to be better and continuously learn.

Current Company and position: Director of Marketing & Public Relations, CelticMKE, home of Milwaukee Irish Fest

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Have patience with yourself. When you're just starting out, you're still learning. Allow yourself to slowly step into things versus thinking you need to know everything

right away to be successful.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I have a profound affinity for the culture - from the music (Irish folk is my favorite) to Ireland's rich history. I'm fascinated by all of it. I'm most especially fascinated by the Irish community, particularly here in America. It's our love and pride for our heritage that keeps us all connected, no matter where we happen to be. There's nothing quite like it. It's a wonderful sense of warmth and belonging. It's like what Yeats once said: "There are no strangers here. Only friends you haven't yet met."

Melissa Ward was born and raised in Ohio to Mark and Shirley Nickels; she grew up developing a curiosity for people, cultures and their stories. Studying abroad in London further enhanced her curiosity, as she became fascinated with world history and culture. After earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Grand Valley State University, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, one of her first jobs after college centered on archiving history through direct recounts of wartime experiences.

Ward had the honor of capturing and editing oral history interviews with war veterans through the Grand Valley State University Veterans History Project, an initiative that is in collaboration with the Library of Congress. The project collects, records and archives interviews and materials pertaining to military veterans

of all eras, as well as of civilians, with stories relating to the American experience of wartime.

She also had the pleasure of working with a wonderful team on producing a documentary about the All American Girls Professional Baseball League called "A Team of Their Own." In the later part of 1942, with so many baseball players heading off to war, Phillip Wrigley decided to establish a league for women to keep the game going. She served as the Associate Producer and worked alongside the director, producers and editor on telling the story of the amazing women who played in this league. One of Ward's most memorable moments was when her team had the privilege of meeting some of these women at a reunion event in Indiana.

Ward currently works as the Director of Marketing and PR for CelticMKE, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and preserve Irish American and Celtic culture. She works to elevate both the organization's brand and people's interest in the rich heritage of Ireland and the Celtic nations, and to expand the organization's reach to a more global audience. In addition, Ward spearheads all marketing and advertising campaigns for their signature event, Milwaukee Irish Fest. She is also a part of the entertainment committee for the festival and CelticMKE's year round concert committee.

Ward thanks Irish Echo for the honor, as well as her incredible team at CelticMKE.



Paul Stanton

Where you live:

Weehawken, NJ

Place of Birth:

Co. Cork, Ireland

Age:

34

Family: My wife Emma is from Co. Donegal and we are parents to a newborn baby Eleanor born on January 20th, 2021.

First Job:

Picking Potatoes on a Farm in Ireland

What it taught me: It taught me that I didn't want to be a potato farmer.

Current Company and position: Principal at Darby Construction Services

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Don't measure your own achievement against the success of others. Do your own thing but always look to improve.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I have a strong interest in Irish American history, community work and regularly attend Irish events including theatre and sporting events. I am a member of INNYC, The Ireland Funds Young Leaders and the Manhattan Gaels.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. On a visit to DC, I spotted a plaque dedicated to John Saul, a 19th-century horticulturist, in the White House garden in 2012. Through research, I made the connection to Castlemartyr close to my hometown of Midleton, Co. Cork. Through the discovery, a plaque was mounted in the grounds of the hotel and unveiled by former US president Bill Clinton.
2. I am hoping to run a marathon in every state of the USA. So far, I have completed 30 marathons and ticked off 24 states.
3. I would like to live in Argentina at some point in my life. It has a lot to offer - good steak, wine, nice weather, outdoor activities, architecture, culture and interesting history.

Paul Stanton is a Civil Engineering graduate of NUI Galway and a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with 12 years of industry experience in the New York City market. Paul has worked on a range of construction projects including retail, residential, hospitality, healthcare, infrastructure upgrades and corporate office space.

CONGRATULATIONS MEGHAN QUINN!

Irish Echo 40 Under 40 Awards



Thank you for being such a strong advocate for the Buffalo and Western New York Irish Community! We are so proud of all the work you do to promote Irish culture and foster Irish relations!

Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senate, 63rd District

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONNOR CHARLES LENNON



FROM ALL OF YOUR BROTHERS AT THE AGL!



Meghan Quinn

Where you live: South Buffalo, NY

Place of Birth: Rochester, NY

Age: 36

Family: I'm the daughter of Anita (Durkin) and Patrick Crotty. My husband Kevin and I have three children, Keira (11), Rory (9) and Colleen (6).

First Job: Finish Line, Sneaker Sales

What it taught me: Find the right fit, what might work for one person may not work for another. Talk to the customer and figure out what will meet their needs.

Current Company and position: HSBC Bank USA, N.A. - VP, Sr. Credit Manager, Commercial Banking

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Find your balance. Early in my career it was easy and necessary to work long hours, but now I'm at the point in my life where having time and flexibility is invaluable. I'm fortunate that I can be successful professionally while still having time to devote to my family and friends, attend important events and volunteer for organizations I am passionate about.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my heritage through Irish music and dance. My favorites, the Wolfe Tones and Black 47, are always on the playlist and there is a good chance you can catch a jig from my daughters or friends in my kitchen. I love tradition, so in 2020, when both of the areas parades were cancelled I organized an impromptu parade around our block complete with banners, music, dancers and decorated trucks.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. Every year me and 10 of my old Irish

dancing friends get together and go out the Saturday night before the downtown St. Patrick's Day parade. The RNT retired crew hasn't missed a night out in 15 years.

2. I ran the Buffalo Marathon in 2013.

3. 3. In 2016, my husband and I went to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Meghan Quinn's pride and involvement in her Irish heritage started at a young age, with her parents Anita and Patrick Crotty enrolling her in the Rince Na Tiarna Irish Dance school at age 6. Meghan continued Irish dance through her life winning multiple regional and national team titles, learning the value of hard work and determination while making lifelong friendships.

In 1994, Meghan's family took part in the Belfast Summer Relief program. The Belfast Summer Relief program began in 1975 to provide children of Northern Ireland a carefree summer away from the political tension in Western New York (WNY). Through this program Meghan met Pauline (Hutton) Daniels who traveled from Derry, to stay with Meghan and her parents for the summer. Pauline quickly became part of the family. Through the years both families have stayed in touch with Meghan and Pauline visiting most recently with their families in Buffalo in 2014 and Derry in 2016.

Meghan is a graduate of Mount Mercy Academy (2002) and John Carroll University (2007) in Cleveland, OH. During her time at John Carroll, Meghan participated in the inaugural 'Ireland Peacebuilding Program' where she spent six weeks living at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. As part of the program students met with members of government and political leaders, former paramilitaries, victims, police

and peacemakers to learn first-hand the history of Northern Ireland. Meghan graduated John Carroll with a B.S.B.A. in Accountancy and a minor in Human Resources. After graduation, Meghan began working in public accounting and obtained her CPA license in 2009. Meghan moved to the banking industry in 2010 and currently works for HSBC as a Vice President in the Commercial Bank. Meghan is a Senior Credit Manager supporting international clients headquartered in the North Eastern United States.

Meghan is the Treasurer of South Buffalo Roots, a community organization responsible for the area's largest and only free Irish Festival. The organization is responsible for the planning of the South Buffalo Irish Festival, a day-long event with 12+ Irish bands and dance troupes in the heart of Buffalo's Irish Heritage district. In addition to the annual festival, South Buffalo Roots is active in the community. In 2020, without the in-person festival, the organization shifted its focus to the community, coordinating meal delivery for hospital staff attending to Covid-19 patients and cafeteria workers who were distributing food to families in need. The organization also sponsored food drives for local food banks and clothing drives for area shelters.

Meghan volunteers at her children's school, Notre Dame Academy. As a member of the Finance Committee, Director of the Annual Fun Run and active PTO volunteer Meghan works hard to be sure the school continues to thrive as the last remaining Catholic elementary school in the neighborhood. Meghan makes her home in South Buffalo with her husband and famous accordion player Kevin, daughters Keira and Colleen and son Rory.



Megan Lynch

Where you live: Bronx, NY

Place of Birth: Queens, NY

Age: 31

Family: My husband, Steven, and I are expecting our first child this spring. My wonderful parents, Loretta and Bill, inspired me to become a public interest lawyer. My two brothers, Simon and Liam, have been keeping me on my toes since day one. Lucky to have such great in-laws back in Ireland: Sean, Patricia, Christine, Nicola, Clare and Karen!

First Job: Retail

What it taught me: I learned that many jobs do not provide a livable wage. Most of my colleagues had multiple jobs and were dependent on getting consistent hours to make ends meet.

Current Company and position: I currently work for Bronx Legal Services as a Staff Attorney in their Housing Unit.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Find purpose in your work, wherever you are on your journey. Job title matters less than how you approach your work.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I joined the Brehon Law Society of New York in law school. The Brehon Law Society is an organization that promotes and protects human rights in the North of Ireland. Through the Brehon Law Society, I had the opportunity to complete an internship in Belfast working for human rights firm, KRW Law, under the supervision of Niall Murphy. I continue to be involved with the Brehon Law Society as an Officer and keep tabs on current events and legal news.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I met my husband in Ireland.
2. I sang with Celine Dion in concert.
3. I have over fifty first cousins.

Megan was born in Queens, NY but spent most of her childhood in Albany, NY where she attended the Doane Stuart School. Upon graduating from high school she enrolled at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. As a college student she played for the women's club soccer team and volunteered locally as a tutor. Megan spent her junior year abroad in Spain studying politics at the Universidade da Coruna in Galicia. She graduated from Holy Cross with a degree in Political Science.

After college, Megan spent one year as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Troy, NY for a non-profit called Unity House where she coordinated and developed their volunteer programming. She then accepted a position as an International Fellow for PeacePlayers International – Northern Ireland, a cross-community organization

that uses sport to bring young people together. There she spent two years working in Belfast as a coach, facilitator, program coordinator, and assisting with finance/grant writing. During this time she also met her future husband, Steven.

Megan returned to New York to pursue her law degree at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law. In her first year of law school, she spent her winter break in the Mississippi Delta, with fellow law students working on housing and civil rights cases for the Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights. That summer, she received a Sorensen Center Fellowship to travel to Bogota, Colombia and intern at Womens Link Worldwide researching and drafting memoranda on pressing human rights issues impacting women and girls. For her second year of law school she was selected by the Brehon Law Society to intern in Belfast for the summer working for KRW Law under the supervision of partner Niall Murphy. There she assisted with the Loughinisland case which later was the subject of the Trevor Birney documentary 'No Stone Unturned,' along with other pending inquiries into deprivation of human rights in the North. In her final year of law school, Megan participated in the Human Rights and Gender Justice clinic at her law school first on the Reproductive Justice docket advocating for the due process rights of pregnant women in the U.S. and then on the Gender Justice docket preparing a petition for the International Criminal Court. As a member of the clinic, she had the opportunity to travel to the Hague to meet with prosecutors regarding gender-based crimes committed by ISIS, as well as conducting a presentation to graduate students at Leiden University. During law school she was also selected to lead a conversation with former Senator George Mitchell on the Northern Irish Peace Process.

Upon completing her law degree, Megan accepted an Excelsior Fellowship with the New York State Division of Human Rights, working in their central office in the Bronx. There she investigated discriminatory patterns or practices in housing, employment and public accommodations under New York State Law. In her second year she transferred to the Division's Prosecution Unit to handle cases where the complainant was unrepresented.

Megan then obtained employment as a Staff Attorney in the Housing Unit at Bronx Legal Services where she continues to work today. There she represents tenants facing eviction in Bronx Housing Court, which has been entirely virtual since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since being at Bronx Legal Services, she has successfully advocated for her clients both in and out of court by connecting them with resources and engaging in litigation to raise affirmative defenses or to get their case dismissed.

Megan looks forward to her next trip back to Ireland when conditions allow!

Congratulations

Maura Whelan Spiegel



We're very proud of you..
Well done!

The Kellys
(Killarney & Bronxville)



Congratulations

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40 UNDER 40 Awards

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Maura Whelan Spiegel

Where you live: Pearl River, NY

Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Age: 38

Family: I've been married to my wonderful husband, Kurt Spiegel, for 15 years and we have two daughters, Maeve and Niamh.

Mother - Kathleen (Kelly) Whelan from Killarney Co. Kerry is a proud Kerry woman, third generation Nurse and lifelong inspiration to me as a working mother. Father - Patrick Whelan from Cappoquin, Co. Waterford is a 9/11 first responder and a huge supporter of Irish Music who drove my brother Declan and I all over the tristate for music lessons and competitions.

First Job: Secretary at the St. Barnabas Rectory in Woodlawn, NY

What it taught me: This role taught me the importance of a positive attitude in customer service.

Current Company and position: Manager of Project Management and Portfolio Services at Schulte, Roth & Zabel LLP

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Hard work will get you far but the best way to amplify your hard work is through the relationships you build. Don't forget to network in your industry, in your company, with your customers and in the Irish American community.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Growing up in Woodlawn, I was surrounded by Irish and Irish American culture as a child. We attended Irish music concerts, GAA games at Gaelic Park and participated in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. My parents also encouraged my love of Irish music through fiddle lessons with some of the most talented teachers New York had to offer including Eileen Ivers, Brian Conway and Rose Flanagan. We travelled yearly to visit our family in Ireland and it has always felt like a home away from home to me.

Throughout the years I have been involved in the County Waterford Association of NY and march with them every Saint Patrick's Day. I have been a member of the Irish Business Organization and International Irish Business Network. I also travel to visit my family in Ireland at least once every two years and look forward to a time when we can see each other again!

My goal is to instill this same appreciation of our Irish Heritage in my daughters by continuing our tradition of regular trips to Kerry

and Waterford and by taking advantage of the Irish dance, music and sport offerings in Rockland County, NY.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. In college, I was a performer and Business Manager for an A Capella group that recorded 4 albums. The group frequently performed Pride by U2 with me doing my best Bono impression for the majority of the time I was in the group.
2. Played the fiddle when I was younger and traveled to Ireland twice to compete in the Fleadh Cheoil.
3. Pre-pandemic, I was often found at the annual New York Comic Con cosplaying famous fictional red heads like Amy Pond from Doctor Who.

Maura was born and raised in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx. She has a passion for music and performing that has included singing in various school and church choirs, performing in school plays and musicals, and playing and competing as an Irish Fiddle player. Early in her education, Maura discovered an interest in science and math. She graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with minors in Management and Communication.

Maura is the Manager of Project Management and Portfolio Services at Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, an Am Law 100 law firm in the financial services sector. She has more than 15 years of expertise in project, program and portfolio management and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Maura has presented on Project Management at numerous events for the American Records Management Association of NY and lead a panel on the Generational Differences in the Workplace for the International Legal Technology Association.

In 2019, Maura graduated from LEAP, Leadership & Executive Acceleration Program, an International Irish Business Network initiative for Irish and Irish-American female professionals, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Outside of work, Maura is the President of Mill Pond Preserve Inc., a 500 acre preserve of undeveloped woodland in Pennsylvania. In her spare time, Maura loves to travel with her husband and daughters. She enjoys nature walks in NY, NJ and PA and is an avid reader. She is also an Irish and Munster Rugby fan.



Seanna Conway

Where you live: Cleveland, Ohio

Place of Birth: Washington, D.C.

Age: 37

Family: 3 rescue dogs and a partner of many years

First Job: Camp Counselor at a Hockey Camp

What it taught me: A great teacher can make all the difference in the world

Current Company and position: Special Prosecutor (Lake County, Ohio); Gilmour Academy Girls Prep Hockey Coach.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: No matter how stupid you think you sound, ask questions and lean on colleagues for help as you begin your career

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I try to celebrate and embrace the things I learned and loved while living in Ireland for many years - loving

the neighbor, frequently gathering with friends and living not for work - but for family time and vacations aka holidays!

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I hate the cold despite being an avid hockey player/coach.
2. I went to law school in Ireland.
3. Played ice hockey for Team Ireland.

Born in Washington D.C. to two young, soon-to-be-lawyers and then raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Seanna grew up in a household full of traditional music, sports and both an immediate and extended family full of legal minds. With two grandfathers, many aunts and uncles and two parents in the legal profession, it's no wonder she took a wild & adventurous path. After a college hockey career which lead her to the University of New Hampshire, Seanna also played in the National Women's Hockey League (Montreal, Quebec) and York University in Toronto, Canada, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in History and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2007. Knowing her Irish roots needed to be explored, she then pursued a Masters in Irish Studies at the National University of Ireland (Galway) and of course her Master's Thesis was on the history of representation of women in sport in Ireland. After a year in

Galway, it was finally time to pursue a legal career, and so instead of going home, she pursued an Irish Law Degree at Griffith College of Dublin, attending classes at night and working in a Dublin law firm during the day. In addition to pursuing her legal education, Seanna never stopped playing hockey and had the lucky fortune (due to dual citizenship) of playing for Ireland's first ever Women's National Ice Hockey Team. She represented Team Ireland at the IIHF Women's World Championships on two occasions, in 2011 in Sofia, Bulgaria and in 2012 in Izmir, Turkey. In the 2012 championship tournament, she was named Goalie of the Tournament.

While pursuing a legal education in Ireland was a wonderful decision, Seanna knew that being licensed to practice in the United States was also important to her. In order to do that (i.e. sit the Bar) she pursued a one-year LL.M degree at Brooklyn Law School in Brooklyn, New York. After graduation she sat both the New York Bar and the Ohio Bar and was admitted to both in 2014.

While searching for that ever elusive "first job" as an attorney, Seanna stumbled upon the Clemency Project, an army of volunteer lawyers who worked on behalf of thousands of prisoners needing free legal assistance in drafting and submitting clemency petitions to the Department of Justice (Office of the Pardon Attorney). These petitions were submitted on behalf of non-violent offenders who were serving mandatory minimum sentences, and who would, if sentenced today, receive shorter sentences.

Seanna submitted two Clemency petitions to the Department of Justice on behalf of non-violent prisoners, both of which were granted. The first petition was signed by President Barack Obama on December 18, 2015; this individual had been given a life sentence without the possibility of parole, and he is now a free man. The second petition was granted on President Obama's very last day in office, and was a significant reduction in the prison term, and that person is also now free.

That elusive first job as a lawyer came to fruition at last, and Seanna became an Assistant Prosecutor at the Lake County Prosecutor's Office in early 2015. She worked in this position full-time (in both the felony and juvenile divisions) before hockey came calling again - this time, it was her former high school searching for a coach to take over their girls program, which was struggling.

Since that time, Seanna has been working as the Girls Prep Hockey Head Coach at Gilmour Academy, while also acting as a Special Prosecutor in Lake County, Ohio, balancing her true passions - ice hockey and the legal profession. This semester she will also teach Constitutional Law at Gilmour and she very much looks forward to teaching a comparative law section, discussing the important links between the U.S. Constitution and the Irish Constitution.

CONGRATULATIONS

MAURA WHELAN SPIEGEL

AND ALL THE HONOREES OF
THE IRISH ECHO 2021 40 UNDER 40 AWARDS.

WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND THE ROLE MODEL YOU ARE FOR
YOUR DAUGHTERS.

LOVE YOUR PARENTS,
KATHLEEN AND PAT WHELAN,
BROTHER, **DECLAN**
AND FRIENDS IN KILLARNEY.



Congratulations, Michael Tobin!



**From the Tobin, Colon, Schall Families and all your
AOH brothers in the Colonel Patrick O'Rourke Division
#7, Rochester, New York!
We are ALL so very proud of you!**

IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Stephen Place

Where you live: Malta

Place of Birth: Dublin

Age: 39

Family: Married to my beautiful Maltese wife Liz. I have an amazing Mum in North Dublin I have 9 brothers & sisters. Jacqui, Jennie, Louise, Fiona, Cathy, Michael, Cecelia, Maria & Brendan. 22 nieces & nephews,

two American akita's named Sky & Cooper, and a cat on the way. God bless the house and the Cat.

First Job: Delivering Milk in North Dublin.

What it taught me: Be on time, keep the pace and don't break the bottle's

Current Company and position: Founder & Managing Director of Place VIP Travel Concierge.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Find a good mentor and don't rush in. It's ok to go for something if you have the passion for it but.....take a breath, don't completely attach yourself to it (easier said than done :) once you have all the moving parts in place, execute as best as you can. In the words of the great Samuel Becket; "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? With great pride of course. My mother and sisters are all singers,

theatrical and good ole fun. My brothers and Auld man have larger than life characters. With a nudge from my brother, I put this influence to good use and became a tour guide in Dublin. It was so rewarding to present the very first impressions of Ireland & its landscape to second, third and fourth generation Irish-American, Canadian & Aussie tourists who heard so much of the Emerald Isle through friends, extended family and fireside chats. I made it a goal to teach and entertain my guests with the right mix of history, tradition, music, nature, city life and rural beauty. My Ireland became theirs and it was a privilege to share our country with others.

In addition, I carry my Irish passport every day, play football with a local crew of Irish expats, and keep my love of country and family alive through social media group chats.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. Whilst I come across an extrovert, I am more of an introvert.
2. Learning Maltese, is a lot like the Irish language actually in terms of absolutely murdering the pronunciation. Once you have the hang of both languages, they are very poetic.
3. My karaoke standby is butchering "Brown Eyed Girl"

Stephen had the good fortune to be the youngest of 10 children in a warm, loving and funny family. He got his strong values from his parents and sense of fun, gift of gab and drive to succeed from his siblings. A soccer star in his teens, he was scouted and recruited to attend Thomas University in Georgia and was introduced to the USA via Southern Hospitality. He was recognized with Honorable Mention to the All-American roster in 2002. As a result of his time in the Peach State, Stephen has an abiding love for barbecue, biscuits, and shrimp gumbo.

Upon completing his studies, Stephen returned to Dublin and became a tour guide, introducing thousands of first-timers and repeat visitors to the magic of the Fair City and surrounding areas. Stephen's reputation grew so much that his five star reviews on TripAdvisor resulted in a packed schedule regardless of "high" or "low" seasons. While evaluating other guide companies and market demand, Stephen saw an opportunity to raise his game and serve a more upscale clientele. He made relationships with top hotels, galleries, boutiques, venues, museums and heritage sites to offer his guests the best access. On one snowy December weekend, Stephen was guiding a ladies' leisure group from Malta when he locked eyes with a beautiful brunette. Their long-distance romance was buoyed by staggering phone bills and lots of miles on Ryanair and Air Malta until Stephen finally embraced the idea of living in year-round sunshine and a 25°C average temperature.

Expanding his business to Malta proved challenging in the beginning, as he had to build from the ground up. Undeterred, Stephen went to work, studied the island, met key players, and raised the bar for the competition. Now, 7 years into it, Stephen is known as Malta's best VIP travel concierge and continues to develop his global network of travel partners and experiences. Professional highlights include obtaining premier seating at the Vienna Opera Ball, securing a private visit to the Hagia Sophia on three days' notice, and learning the locations of every KFC near all major European airports. Despite the difficulties of COVID, 2020 proved to be Stephen's busiest year yet by adding new clients globally, increasing the service offering and successfully spiriting clients out of pandemic hotspots.

Stephen is delighted to be honored in the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 for 2021.



Thomas Dalton

Where you live: Los Angeles

Place of Birth: Hamilton, NJ

Age: 36

Family: Happily married to my wife Milda Dalton. Parents Marian (former Daly, Philadelphia) and Sean Dalton (Longford) met in New Jersey in the 80's and immigrated back to Co. Longford, Ireland to raise a wonderful family.

Growing up with siblings; Kiera, Sean, Declan and Oonagh – we were all very active in traditional Irish Sports Football, Hurling and Camogie.

First Job: Longford Town Council - Summer Work

What it taught me: I learned a lot from my first job, both work and life related. The most important thing I learned was that "how you do something" is just as important as "what you do". It is a lesson I bring with me every day and share with my teams. That job also taught me the importance of making a positive impact on your community.

The people I worked with had an incredibly positive outlook on our local community and life which instilled a sense of accomplishment and purpose within me.

Current Company and position: Recruiting Leader for TikTok, North America.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Take the time to explore new opportunities and diversify your experiences. Have faith that you will find the right role if you are patient, passionate, and dedicated. Don't be afraid to follow your own path and take big risks to find something you love. Be open to trying new things that foster creativity and inspire growth.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I celebrate my heritage and advocate for Ireland regularly during my conversations with industry leaders, peers, and surrounding community. I believe when you are away from your home you are an ambassador for your country. Having an Irish accent in the US usually ignites a conversation with friendly, curious strangers and I always use that as an excellent opportunity to highlight my hometown! Luckily for us, Ireland has a great affinity within the US, and I constantly meet people who have either enjoyed great experiences or want to experience our homeland and it fills me with great pride. I love being able to watch the GAA back home and make sure I have a big party with my US friends when the All-Ireland final is on, although I am still keeping my fingers crossed that Longford will be there one day!

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. Leinster Colleges Senior A Championship Winner with St. Mel's College 2003
2. Recipient of Garda Síochána Medal for Bravery 2004
3. Favorite Band: Brave Giant

Recruiting Leader for TikTok North America and an active member of the Forbes HR Council, an invitation-only community for senior-level human resources across all industries. With nearly a decade of Talent Acquisition experience, Thomas oversees recruitment for TikTok's Content, Operations, and Corporate Functions and is passionate about diversity recruitment and executive coaching to build high performing resource models. Originally from Longford, Ireland, Thomas' career began within family business and service industry start-ups. Thomas has consulted for some of the world's largest Technology, Banking, Media, and Professional Services organizations while working for Robert Half International. Prior to TikTok, Thomas also built recruiting teams for Amazon's cloud platform AWS and oversaw the execution and scale of high volume, global hiring events within the EMEA and South East Asia regions. Thomas loves to rise to a recruitment challenge and solve strategic sourcing needs for businesses and is passionate about TikTok's mission to inspire creativity and bring joy. Thomas obtained a degree in Computer Science and Finance from National University of Ireland, Maynooth and is certified in HR Analytics by Cornell University.



Sean Patricia

Where you live: Atlanta, GA

Place of Birth: Albany, NY

Age: 39

Family: Joanne Patricia – Mother; Kevin Patricia – Father; Dr. Karen Patricia – Sister; Kelly Patricia – Sister.

First Job: Lifeguard - YMCA

What it taught me: Being 16 years old and suddenly in a role

responsible for the lives of others is a daunting task. It required being attentive to all actions occurring around you and never taking your eyes off your area of focus. I have carried that mindset forward throughout my life and career of always being focused on my short- and long-term goals and being cognizant of events around me and how they may

impact me and my friends/family/business.

Current Company and position: UPS - Strategy & Transformation Manager

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Never be discouraged by failure. Every failure should be treated as an opportunity with valuable lessons embedded within it. Success happens from adapting these learnings and being persistent in execution of whatever may lay before you. It took me 4 years of aggressively pursuing opportunities and being underemployed in the meantime to land where I am now. I remained focused on where I wanted to be that entire time and only by learning from my failures and persisting did I achieve my current success.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I am actively involved in the Atlanta Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I have been the Division Secretary for the past 2 years and will be the VP as of January 26th. Through them I have been involved in planning/participating in Irish Festivals, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Atlanta, active participation within the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and interacting with the Consulate General of Ireland to promote Irish history and culture within the communities of Atlanta. Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I played Rugby for 7 years (college/adult leagues)
2. I am a PADI certified diver
3. I made my own hurley

Sean completed his BS in Economics and International Finance from SUNY Albany before beginning a career in logistics with Penske. Several years later he attended Wake Forest University to receive his MBA with concentrations in Corporate Strategy and Operations Management. He then spent several years performing contract Project Management work before getting his foot in the door with UPS. In 5 years at UPS he has been promoted twice into his current role within the Strategy and Transformation office, where his team's focus is turning UPS into a leaner, more efficient 21st century company through process improvement, design thinking and LEAN and Agile principles. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking and camping, in addition to being actively involved in supporter's groups for Atlanta United and Rugby ATL. When not in the mountains or watching sports, he is involved with Open Hand for packing and distributing meals to the elderly and volunteers with various organizations through HandsOn Atlanta.



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Congratulations to **Ryan Greff**
Chairman of the Economic Recovery Task Force Initiative
on being chosen for an Irish 40 Under 40 Award.

About the SBDC at Ramapo College

Regional Center Leadership

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is led by Regional Director Vincent Vicari.

SBDC Services

The SBDC works to help small business owners to develop business plans, find financing, conduct financial analysis, identify new markets, initiate marketing strategies, learn green sustainability practices, and develop an E-commerce presence.

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Learn more about the SBDC
by visiting:
www.sbdcborgen.com





Gary Mannion

Where you live: Lawrence, MA

Place of Birth: Lawrence, MA

Age: 31

Family: Married; Wife - Kathryn

First Job: Waiter

What it taught me: You can't spend life trying to please other people, some people just can't be pleased. Wait tables for a week at any restaurant and you'll get exactly what I mean. Do what makes you happy and help those around you.

Current Company and position: Co-Founder of Mill City Strategies a political consulting firm. Firefighter, City of Lawrence MA.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Your time and effort is worth something. Don't work for anyone that doesn't want to pay you what you think you deserve. Never worry about what others are doing, as long as you work as hard as you can and give all your effort, you have done all you can, and with that you can be proud.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

My Irish Heritage is something I am very proud of and always excited to celebrate. I have been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 out of Lawrence MA since I was 18. My grandfather was Lifelong member of this division as well.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I ran for a City Council position when I was only 18 years old and only lost by 17 votes.
2. My wife and I are expecting our first baby in July of 2021
3. I'm an avid fan of horse racing and I own several Thoroughbred race horses.

Gary was born and raised in Lawrence, MA. Gary worked on his first political campaign at the age of 8, holding campaign signs for a city council race, ten years later he would run for that seat himself. He received his Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Merrimack College

in 2012. From 2014-2020, Gary served on the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee. In 2015, he was elected as the chairman of the Lawrence Democratic City Committee, where he oversees the grassroots organization of the party on a local level. That same year he became a Firefighter for the city of Lawrence, becoming the third generation in his family to do so. In 2016, he had the pleasure of helping run the Democratic Presidential caucus in Portland Maine. That year Portland saw one of their largest voter turnouts for a Presidential caucus. Gary has focused his time working on races ranging from small town races to state wide offices. Gary has managed several successful campaigns and has also created and overseen multiple fields and GOTV operations. In 2020 Gary was elected to serve on the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and as a Delegate to the 2020 Democratic National Convention.



Kevin Byrne

Where you live: Mahopac

Place of Birth: Carmel

Age: 36

Family: Son of Daniel and Patricia Byrne with two siblings Christopher Byrne and Trishia (Byrne) Spallina. Married to wife Briana Byrne and father to 8-month-old son Braeden Vincent Byrne.

First Job: Lifeguard at Clarence Fahnestock State Parks, NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

What it taught me: In addition to various life-saving and first aid skills, I learned how to communicate effectively with people from all walks of life. Our state parks attract visitors from all areas and backgrounds. Ensuring that all who visited our parks were safe and treated both equally and fairly was very important.

Current Company and position: New York State Assembly, Member of Assembly for New York's 94th Assembly District

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The good Lord gave us two eyes, two ears, and one mouth. Watch, listen and learn more than you speak. Find a mentor that you admire, respect and seek to learn from. It is important to speak up when it counts, but be careful to listen and learn so you can be better prepared for what lies ahead. Never stop learning.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

My great grandfather James J. Byrne of Villierstown, Waterford County, Ireland who immigrated to the United States of America in 1905 by way of Ellis Island. He lived to 102 years of age affording me the good fortune of knowing him as a young child. I continue to stay in contact with my godfather and uncle, Eddie Byrne, who lives with my aunt and cousins in Galway, Ireland.

In addition to my familial connections to Erin's Isle, I have directly embraced my Irish Heritage in other ways:

I remain an active member of the Emeralds Society of Putnam County, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Putnam County, and am an associative/honorary member of the NYS Fraternal Order of Police and Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Lakes Council # 6318.

I have also studied various historical works on Irish history and culture, submitting papers on Eamon de Valera and others during my undergraduate studies at the University of Scranton. I also play Irish tunes on the highland bagpipes and small pipes. During my college years, I performed competitively and placed first in the Rockland County Irish Feis in 2004.

I am a founding member of the Stephen P. Driscoll Memorial Pipe Band, named after NYPD Emergency Services Unit Police Officer Stephen Driscoll who died on 9/11/01 during the attack on the World Trade Center. In this capacity, I have also assisted in musical performances accompanying the Chieftains in Carnegie Hall, in addition to performing at various other events at the Javitz Center and The Town Hall Theatre in NYC.

In my capacity as an elected member of the New York State Assembly, I also serve an active member of the American-Irish Legislators Society of New York State, participating in the NYC Saint Patrick's Day Parade and raising funds for scholarships that support Irish heritage around the state.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. People are still surprised to learn I play the bagpipes.
2. I had always desired to serve in the U.S. military. I joined Army ROTC in college, but two previous spine surgeries caused by an athletic injury in high school prevented me from obtaining the required medical approval needed to ultimately serve.
3. I completed multiple Arabic language classes as a college student.

Kevin Byrne is the current assembly member for New York's 94th Assembly District and serves as the ranking member of the Assembly Health Committee and as chair of the Assembly Minority Program Committee, making him the youngest member of his conference's leadership team. Byrne also serves as an active member of the Ways & Means, Insurance, Labor, Transportation, and Governmental Operations Committees.

Kevin resides in Mahopac with his wife, Briana (Messina) Byrne, who has a busy career as a physician assistant at Montefiore Hospital, and their son, Braeden. He is the third child of his two hardworking parents. His father, Dan, recently retired after a 45+ year career working as a high-voltage troubleshooter at Con Edison with the UWUA Local 1-2, and his mother, Patty, is a past 20+ year employee of Putnam Hospital Center.

Kevin was born and raised in the Hudson Valley, attending Carmel High School before enrolling at the University of Scranton. As a high school student, he showed an early commitment to community service and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Following his graduation from the University of Scranton, Byrne returned to the Hudson Valley and continued his volunteer service as an assistant scoutmaster; member of the Putnam Valley Town Planning Board; and volunteer firefighter and EMT for the Kent Volunteer Fire Department where he served three terms as department president.

His commitment to service was later recognized by Congresswoman Nan Hayworth who appointed him deputy district director. After serving the people of New York's 19th Congressional District, Kevin left the public sector to serve as a regional director for the American Heart Association. While working full-time, he completed his graduate studies and received his M.P.A. concentrating in Healthcare Administration at Marist College.



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Congratulations

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IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Ryan Greff

Where you live: Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Place of Birth: Englewood, New Jersey
Age: 22

Family: I come from a long line of proud Irish Americans, dating back to when my great-great grandmother came from Ireland to America through Ellis Island. At one point in history, Ellis Island was the busiest immigrant inspection station in the United States.

First Job: Intern with the Small Business Development Center at Ramapo College

What it taught me: Interning with the Small Business Development Center at Ramapo College taught me the importance of treating others with kindness and respect. Small business owners from various walks of life come to the Small Business Development Center for different kinds of services that range from help with starting a business, acquiring capital, or growing an enterprise. However, each person, no matter their background or industry, needs to be treated with a certain level of respect and compassion if they are to be effectively helped.

Current Company and position: I am currently serving as

the Chairperson of the Economic Recovery Task Force Initiative of the New Jersey Small Business Development Center at Ramapo College. The New Jersey Small Business Development Center is a federal-state-education partnership, primarily funded by the United States Small Business Administration, that provides no-cost business management counseling and information services to small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The place where you are most likely to succeed is a place where you are valued. If you do not feel valued for your contributions, you will most likely not be able to put your best foot forward at your workplace. However, if your employer does value your contributions, you will be more likely to be inspired to work harder, form bold ideas, and make a difference in your workplace.

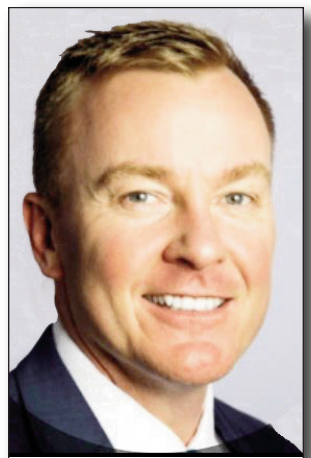
How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? There is a quote from famed Irish author Oliver Goldsmith that asserts "success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall." I live life by this quote. A life without setbacks and failures is a life that is not worth living. A person is not judged by how much they fail at something, as long as they are willing to get back up and try again. Furthermore, staying true to my Irish immigrant heritage, I support immigrant owned businesses through my service with the New Jersey Small Business Development Center.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. A volunteer as an Assistant Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America
2. My favorite color is blue
3. I enjoy wearing funky socks on special occasions

When COVID-19 first hit the United States in the spring of 2020, Bergen County, New Jersey was among the places leading the nation in confirmed coronavirus cases. At this time, Ryan Greff was appointed by the regional director of the New Jersey Small Business Development Center in Bergen County to spearhead the center's Economic Recovery Task Force Initiative. The Small Business Development Center is a federal-state-education partnership, primarily funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, that provides small businesses with no-cost business management counseling and information services. As the newly appointed Chairman of a federally-funded Economic Recovery Task Force Initiative, Greff was charged with the creation and supervision of specialized economic recovery task force teams designed to provide comprehensive support to struggling small businesses in the region. Since then, the Economic Recovery Task Force Initiative has yielded thousands of hours of service helping the small business community recover from the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.

Greff serves on the Board of the Ramapo College Alumni Association. Greff graduated from Ramapo College in the top 1% of his class. He is a recipient of the Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America and has received numerous honors for his academic and community service-related achievements. Most notably, Greff has earned the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award was established by the United States Congress in 1979 to "recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people." It is the nation's highest honor for youth.



Thomas J Tubridy

Where do you live? Oceanside, NY

Place of Birth: Broad Channel, NY.

Age: 37

Status: Married

Family: Married to Tara Dunleavy and have three children Ava Ryan (4) Devin Rae (18 months) Brynn Kelly (18 months)

First Job: Local Paper Route for the Rockaway Wave.

What it taught me: I had one simple task: deliver the news on time and keep the paper dry. It meant so much to all the customers and was key to maintaining the route. To add, it was as important to keep good books. Otherwise, the cost for the paper had to come out of my pocket or in other words it came out of my parent's pocket.

Current Company and position: Senior Sales Representative at Lincoln Financial.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Whatever position or task you are starting out in, come to it with an open mind, be ready to learn and be adaptable to

change. It will take a long time to become an expert at your craft so don't get discouraged by the process. Lastly, accountability is key. As soon as you can learn and understand how to hold yourself accountable, you can then hold everyone else around you as well.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Through music of course! At the age of 18, I transitioned from barback to DJ at McFadden's on 42nd street in NYC. For 17 years, while simultaneously jumping into the corporate world, I continued as a professional DJ, MC and "Roadie" for DJS@WORKNYC. I was afforded the opportunity to entertain thousands of people by using an eclectic arrangement of music. My most cherished events that always brought me back to my Irish roots were playing to crowds at incredible venues such as: The AOH Division 21 Rockaway Irish Festival, St. Patrick's Day celebrations at Park Avenue Tavern & Bungalow Bar Restaurant, Saloon, Rory Dolans, Fordham University and Manhattan College. Lastly, an annual tradition I look forward to most is marching down 5th avenue alongside family with the AOH Divisions 21 in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It is a privilege to have this opportunity and I am truly looking forward to many more celebrations and marches ahead.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. I wear two pairs of socks pretty much every day.
2. A long time ago, my Godfather taught me to play about 20 songs on the Chanter. One of these days, I will take it up again and hopefully graduate to the bagpipes.
3. Notable guest that I have entertained at one point or another at various events include: American Journalist

Megyn Kelly, Actress Jessica Biel, the late Stuart Scott of ESPN, former Yankee Tino Martinez

Thomas Tubridy is the son of Timothy (Retired FDNY) and Patricia (Retired NYBOE) and is the youngest of 7 children. Thomas was raised in Broad Channel and attended PS. 183 and JHS 180 until attending The Loyola School. Thomas attended Fordham University where he earned a BA degree with a Major in Business Marketing. While attending Fordham, Thomas was a 4-year Walk-on member of the Men's Basketball Program and a 3-year President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

Currently, Thomas is a Senior Sales Representative at Lincoln Financial where he works with insurance consultants and brokers in the employee benefit industry. Thomas works with small, medium to large-sized businesses, helping them grow their benefit packages in a competitive marketplace. Thomas enjoys helping these businesses differentiate their benefit offerings to attract and retain employees. Through Lincoln's offerings, Thomas enjoys helping employees gain optimism towards securing their financial future.

In the summer time, Thomas enjoys spending time on the boat with his wife Tara and their three daughters. Thomas's wife Tara is a Radio City Rockette where she has spent the last 15 years dancing professionally. When Broadway and all the entertainment businesses open back up, Thomas is eager to get back out and bring his daughters to cheer on Tara and they will be sure to celebrate at one of the local Irish pubs for after-show drinks!



Róisín Commmane

Where you live: Manhattan, NYC

Place of Birth: Ennis, Co. Clare

Age: 39

Family: Parents - Paddy and Delia Commmane; Brother & Sister-in-law - Ger Commmane & Claire Horn; Nieces - Abigail and Gwen.

First Job: Singer at Bunratty Castle Banquets

What it taught me: Stone floors and court shoes are a bad combination!

Current Company and position: Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Columbia University, New York City

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Oof. I've just been really lucky with chances that came along so I'm not sure I'm the best to answer this! I guess: Be open

to new opportunities, even if you think you shouldn't/aren't qualified to take the chance.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I'm a social musician (ie not very good but play for fun at sessions) and was teaching beginner Irish dancing to try and get fit before the pandemic.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. After college, I couldn't find any friends to join me so I took the Trans-Siberian railway from London and kept going until I ran out of money and flew home from Hong Kong. It was one of

the best solo trips I've ever been on but it really stressed out my mother.

2. I work in the Arctic a lot and I once spent an hour standing around at -40C just to watch the northern lights in northern Canada but thankfully didn't get frostbite!

3. For work, I often have to climb towers and have spent hundreds of hours on research aircraft flying weird maneuvers (which I love) and yet, I'm not good with heights.

Róisín is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University. Her research group examines multidisciplinary questions drawing together observations and modeling of atmospheric chemistry and transport with terrestrial ecology and pollution emissions. Her recent research has focused on the carbon dioxide and methane emissions from thawing permafrost in the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic, and the emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other pollutants into the atmosphere in New York City.

She has co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed articles, is a member of the Science Leadership Groups of the North American Carbon Project, and she has received two NASA group achievement awards for airborne research programs.

Her Arctic research has been the subject of articles in the NY Times, Washington Post, etc. and she was featured in the National Geographic Arctic Special in Sept 2019. Her recent work on the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns on air quality in New York were shown on various new outlets and been the subject of various articles on New York Times, Washington Post, BBC and RTE News.

Róisín grew up just outside Ennis, Co. Clare, obtained her BSc from University College Dublin, MRes in Biomolecular Science from Imperial College London and PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry from University of Leeds, UK and was a postdoc and Research Associate at Harvard University 2009-2018 before moving to Columbia University.



The banner features a dark green background with a white diamond-shaped center. The center contains the text: "AT HOME" in green, "St. Patrick's CELEBRATION" in orange and green, "MARCH 6 | 10AM CST" in orange, and "DETAILS ABOUT THE FREE PROGRAM AT CELTICMKE.COM" in green. The CelticMKE logo is at the top. The corners of the banner are decorated with green Celtic motifs: a shamrock, a harp, and musical notes.



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IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Patrick Steffens

Where you live: NYC

Place of Birth: Brooklyn

Age: 27

Family: All four of my grandparents + both parents are from Brooklyn but both sides of my family trace back to Ireland. My mother's side hails from Galway, Clare and Tipperary, while my father's side comes from Cork and Galway. Parents names are Pat Steffens, Eileen Darcy. Three younger brothers, Tim, Marty and Greg. Girlfriend is Allison.

First Job: Barback/Server/bartender

What it taught me: You can learn a lot about how to treat people as a server. Plus by working for tips, it instilled a sense of hustle at an early age.

Current Company and position I am an Associate with Avison Young, a global commercial real estate firm where I specialize in office leasing throughout NYC.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: "Make sure you learn something every day" is a tip I learned early in my real estate career from a very successful 40-year real estate executive. If he was able to learn something new after spending such a long career, it should be easy for someone just starting.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I grew up watching my father and the NYPD Emerald Society march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade every year and as a family we used to attend the Great Irish Fair in Coney Island every September. As President of the Rockaway Rugby Club, every year we host a large celebration of Irish music to

coincide with the Queens County St Patrick's Day Parade featuring acts such as Shilelagh Law, The Narrowbacks and Two Degrees.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. Quarantine helped me renew my love of cooking
2. 2020 was the first year since 2008 that I couldn't play rugby (thanks covid)
3. I ran with the bulls in Pamplona Spain in 2019

Patrick focuses on the representation of corporations and landlords in their office leasing requirements, including site selection, financial modeling and lease negotiations.

A Brooklyn native, Patrick uses his deep seated, local knowledge of New York City to uncover opportunities in the marketplace. His successful tenant and landlord advocacy practice is owed in part to his holistic and consultative approach in helping clients develop and execute their short and long-term occupancy strategies. Since joining Avison Young in 2015, Patrick has successfully completed transactions in all five New York City boroughs.

Patrick's belief in giving back to the community is illustrated by his involvement with The United Way of New York Young Leaders Committee where he co-leads their fundraising efforts. He also is the Scholarship and Philanthropy Chair of The Seminole Club of New York City, President of the Rockaway Rugby Football Club, a Recent Alumni Board member and mentor of the Florida State University College of Business, a member of the Irish American Building Society and the Irish Business Organization of New York.

In 2020, Patrick was named one of the Commercial Observer's Top 30-Under-30 Young Sales & Leasing Professionals.



Michael Collins

Where you live: Chicago, Illinois

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois

Age: 31

Family: Parents: Eileen and William Collins; Siblings: Claire Collins; Grandmother: Mary Sugrue.

First Job: Field Organizer at Tammy Duckworth Campaign for Congress

What it taught me: During my last year of college I worked as a volunteer, then intern, and then Field Organizer for now US Senator Tammy Duckworth's 2012 congressional campaign. Throughout my time with the campaign, I worked in the field department organizing public events, phone banks, canvassing, and volunteer management. The field department is the most public facing department of a congressional campaign and as a result I regularly interacted with constituents. This work taught me how important empathy, inclusion, and community are to political and social movements. I have carried these

skills over into my current position as the Executive Director of Irish Community Services, an immigration and social services nonprofit based in Chicago.

Current Company and position: Company: Irish Community Services – Midwest, Executive Director

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Don't be afraid to volunteer in the field that you want to work in. When I was in my early twenties, I volunteered for a political campaign and was eventually hired on as the campaign's Field Organizer. If you desire a career in the third sector, volunteering and internships are a rite of passage.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

As I work for an Irish nonprofit, I embrace my heritage everyday! Outside of work however, I am also on the board of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) in Chicago. The IAHC is the Irish cultural center on the north-side of Chicago and I regularly attend Irish music, festivals, and arts displays at the IAHC. Mainly though, I embrace my Irish heritage through my

family traditions, gatherings, and celebrations.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me....

1. I have lived in four different countries.
2. I still play soccer on a regular basis.
3. I am an avid water skier.

Michael Collins is the Executive Director of Irish Community Services, a role that he has held since 2015. Michael was born in Chicago and completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science from St. Xavier University. Michael went on to complete an MA in International Relations and an LL.M. in Public International Law from Dublin City University and the University of Kent respectively. Prior to joining ICS, Michael worked as the Field Organizer on the successful 2012 congressional Campaign for US Senator Tammy Duckworth and completed an internship program at Atlantic Youth Trust Ireland based in Belfast, Northern Ireland.



Thomas Griffith

Where you live: New Jersey

Place of Birth: California

Age: 39

Family: Married with one daughter

First Job: Sunroom Deli

What it taught me: Hard work and determination

Current Company and position: Red Hook Terminals; Executive Vice President

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Slow and steady wins the race, with hard work and dedication anything is possible.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I've traveled to several cities Ireland. At home we focus on passing on to our daughter the culture and family traditions learned from my mother and grandparents

The great grandson of Irish immigrants, Tom was born in Santa Monica, California, Tom lived in Michigan and Connecticut before his family finally settled in New Jersey. Tom graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor's degree in Labor Relations. After graduation he went to work in Port Newark, where he began his career as a marine superintendent. Currently Tom is Executive Vice President of Red Hook Terminals based in Brooklyn, NY, and oversees their national operations.

Congratulations Michael Noonan!



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Congratulations

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The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library
wishes to **congratulate** Operations Director

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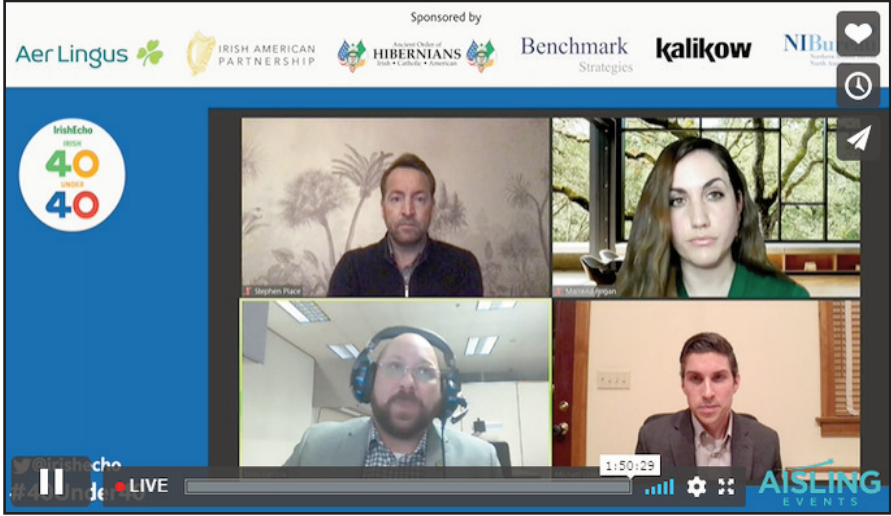
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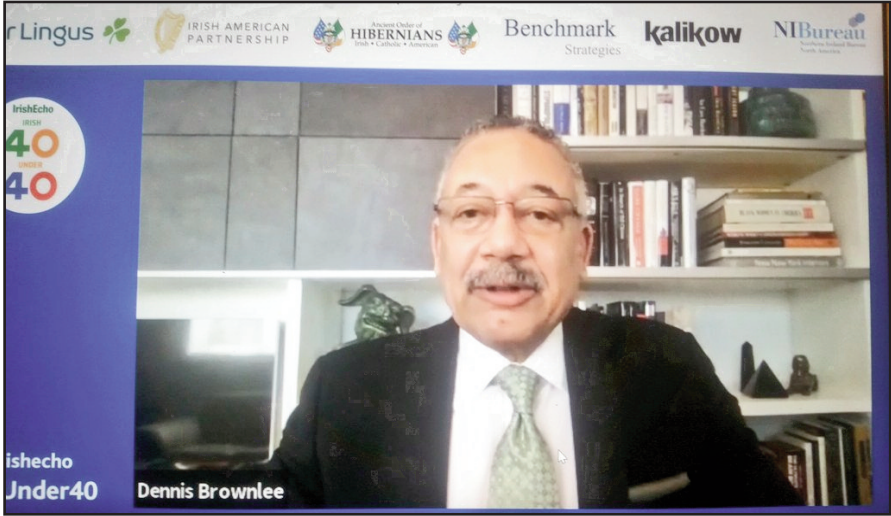
IRISH 40 UNDER 40



Stephen Place, Mairead Rogan, Sean Patricia, and Michael O'Rourke.



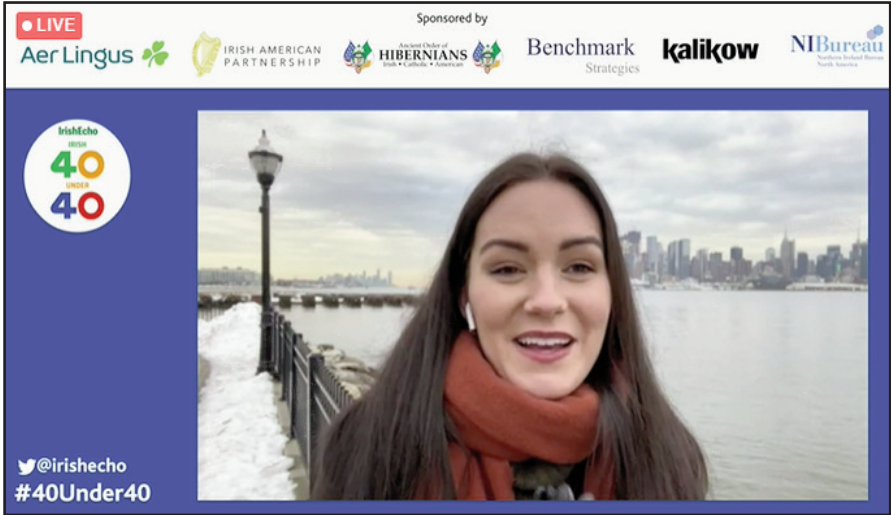
Young Irish American award - Tom Griffith.



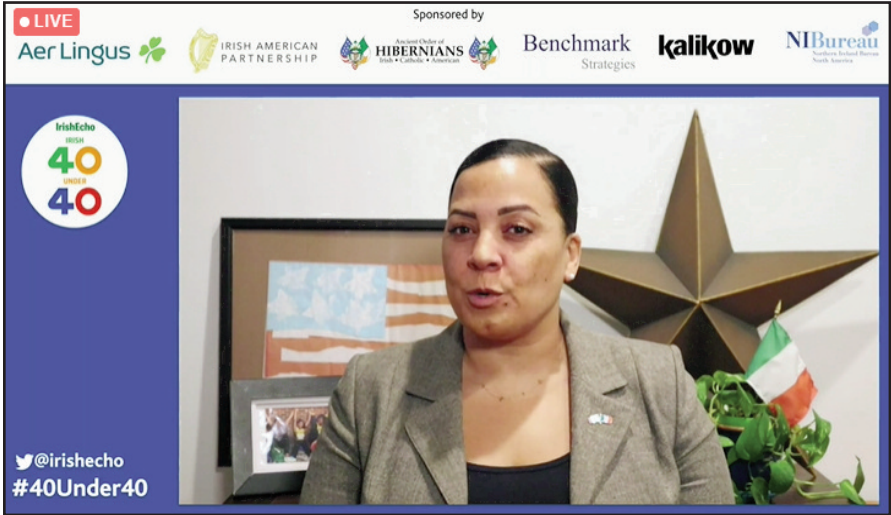
Dennis Brownlee, African American Irish Diaspora Network President.



Pride of Irish America award - Thomas Tubridy.



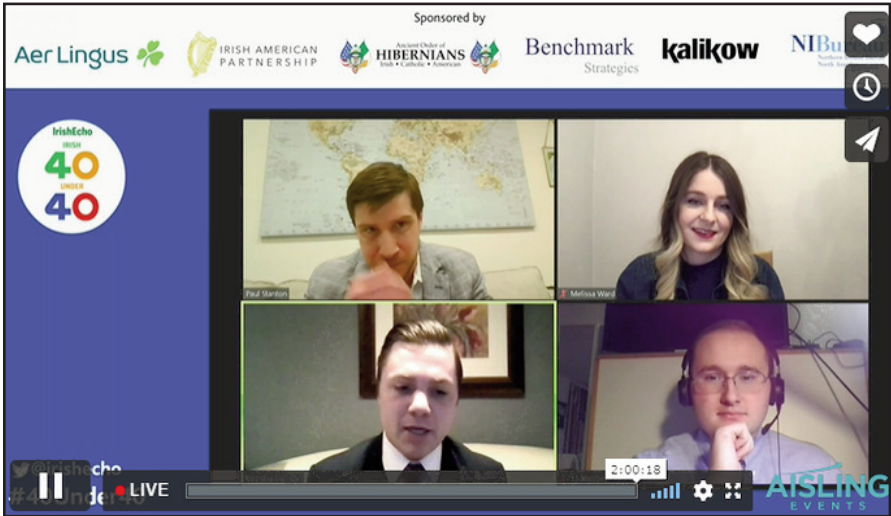
Sophie Colgan.



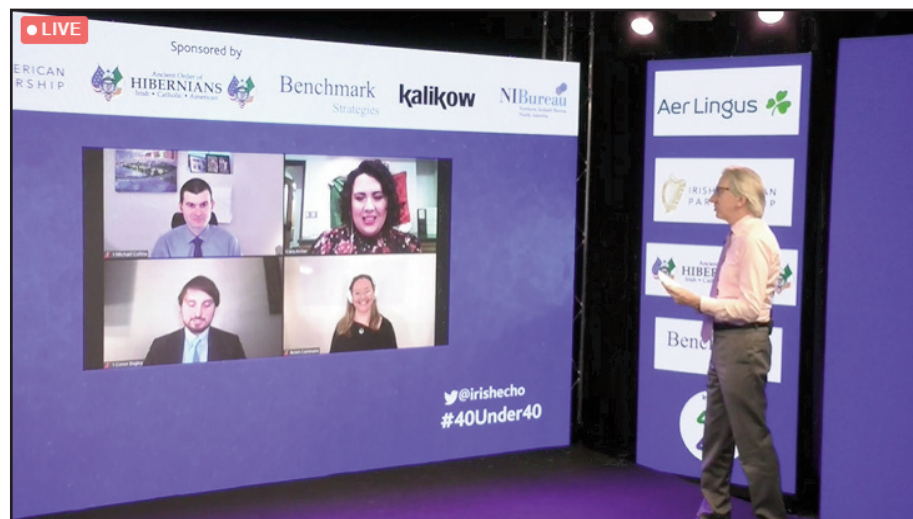
Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney in Massachusetts.



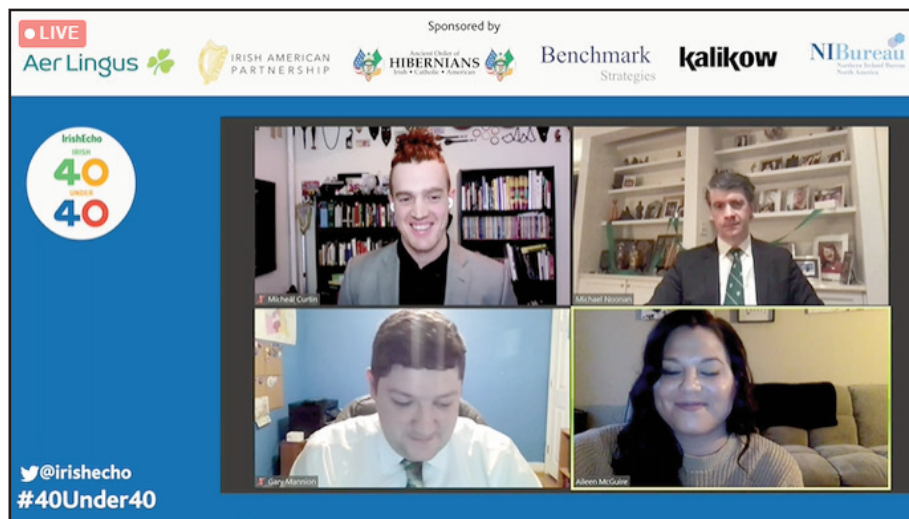
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Connla McCann beaming in the award winners from across the Atlantic.



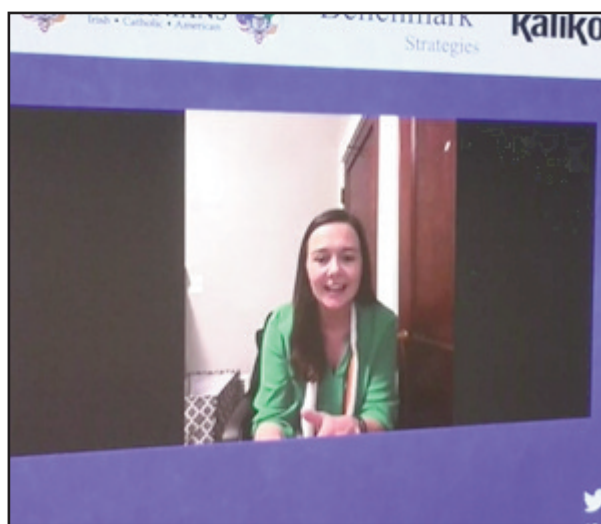
Paul Stanton, Melissa Warde, Brendan Sullivan, and Matthew Sweeney.



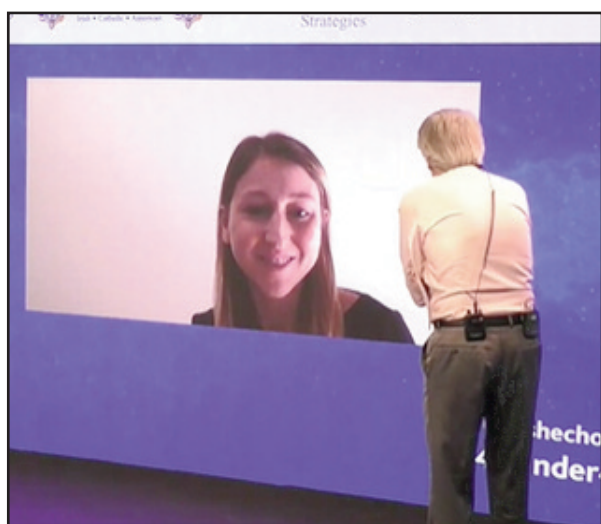
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Michael Collins, Ciara Archer, Conor Bagley, and Roisin Commene.



Micheál Curtin, Michael Noonan, Gary Mannion, and Aileen McGuire.



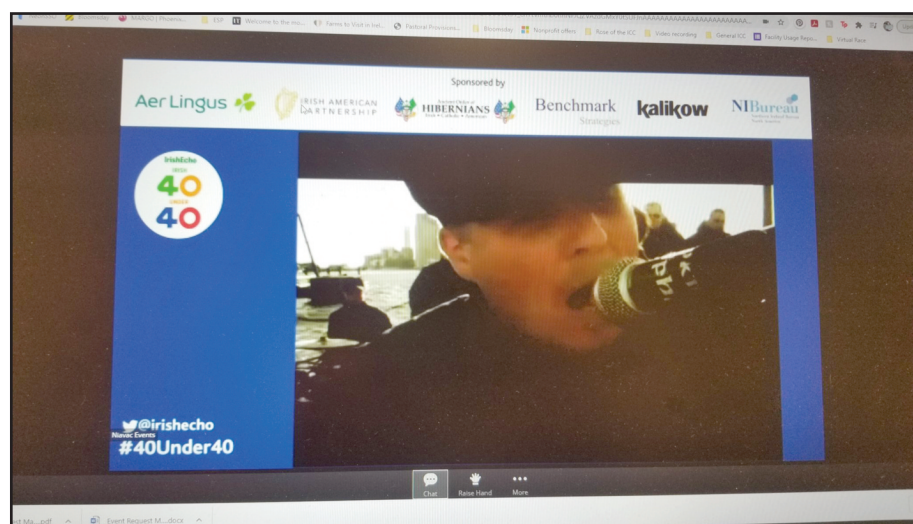
Business Ambassador award - Meghan Quinn.



Irish Trailblazer Nicole Herenden.



Kevin Byrne.



Dropkick Murphys.



Kieran McGirl - Cultural Champion Award.



Kekoa McClellan - Irish America For All Award.



Erin Connolly - Irish Heritage Award.



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